

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather

Today: Cloudy, windy, 60°F (16°C)
Tonight: Cloudy, breezy, 48°F (9°C)
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, 64°F (18°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 122, Number 26

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Students Plan Series of Events To Protest Wolfensohn Address

By Brian Loux

NEWS EDITOR

After some debate with the MIT administration over logistics and planning, Students for a Democratic Commencement will host several events before graduation day designed to inform the MIT community about the World Bank. James D. Wolfensohn, president of the bank, will give the keynote address June 7.

The events on the eve of commencement will begin with a showing of the movie "Life and Debt," which focuses on "the stories of individual Jamaicans whose strategies for survival and parameters of day-to-day existence are determined

by the U.S. and other foreign economic agendas," according to the film's Web site.

The director of the movie, Stephanie Black, will be on hand to discuss the movie and her experiences making it. "She is accepting to forego her honorarium because she just wants to be here," SDC member Julia K. Steinberger G said.

The evening will finish with a concert from Grammy-winning reggae artist Yami Bolo, who appears in the movie.

"In essence, seniors have a choice: they can go to the [Boston] Pops or listen to some reggae. I guess we will each draw different

crowds," Steinberger said.

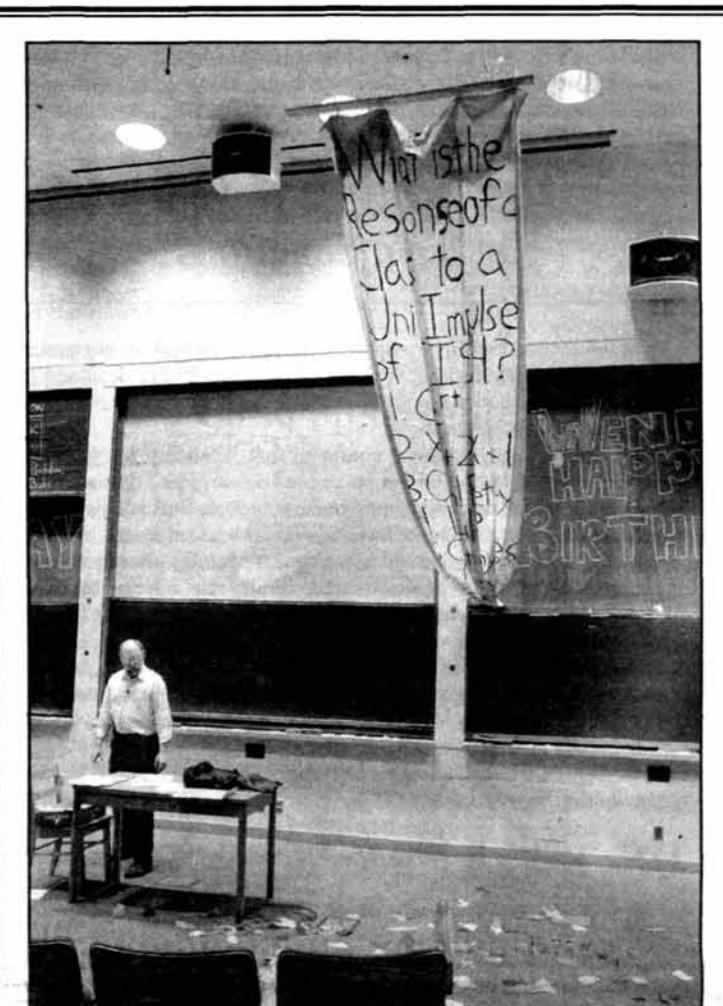
The event will begin at 7:00 p.m. in 54-100, but since seating is so limited, organizers are advising spectators to arrive at 6:00 p.m. to assure a seat.

In addition, a five-member organizing committee will select by lottery 20 students to participate in a closed discussion with Wolfensohn prior to commencement. The lottery will be held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday in the Student Center.

Logistics reduce event size

SDC faced what Steinberger

Commencement, Page 19



A Friday afternoon hack presented students of 18.03 with an unusual request to determine the response of the class to a "unit impulse of fish."

Picowers Give \$50M For Brain Research

By Kevin R. Lang

EDITOR IN CHIEF

MIT announced Thursday that the Jeffry M. and Barbara Picower Foundation donated \$50 million to establish the Picower Center for Learning and Memory.

The gift is the largest private foundation gift in MIT history. Larger donations have been received from individuals, including \$100 million from Kenan E. Sahin '63 and an estimated \$350 million from Patrick J. McGovern '59.

The existing Center for Learning and Memory will be renamed and housed in a new facility as part of the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Center, which will be built at the corner of Vassar and Main Streets. The renamed center will continue to be directed by Nobel Laureate and Professor of Biology Susumu Tonegawa, who won the 1987 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work on genetics and immune response.

"We are really pleased," Tonegawa said. "For this size of a center, which is relatively small, to get a gift of this size is rather rare."

The donation will allow the center to expand from its current faculty size of nine to a total of thirteen professors. The four new endowed professorships will be established with \$12 million of the gift. A further \$8 million will be

Students Spend Summer Travelling, Volunteering

By Jeffrey Greenbaum

STAFF REPORTER

After a year of problem sets, papers, and exams, MIT student are not letting the rough job market stop

them from escaping campus to work in unique jobs, acquire relevant career experience, or explore the world.

While many students will stay on campus for UROPs this summer, others are using the summer as a chance to work nonacademic jobs, volunteer, or travel.

Students go abroad for summer

Christopher J. Emig '04 will travel to Ghana for five weeks

through the MIT African Internet Technology Initiative, to teach high school students Java and web development. Emig said that he will be teaching all day and that his program will be intense, but he is looking forward to preparing his lesson plans and going abroad.

"I had wanted to study abroad for the year. I see this as a half way point," Emig said.

Jenny Ta '04 will also use her summer as chance to study abroad via the new Cambridge-MIT Institute UROP program. Tawill conduct research with a mechanical engineering professor at Cambridge University.

Ta said, "I had wanted to do the

Summer, Page 18



The Stata Center, scheduled to open in 2003, appears almost ghostly viewed from above at night.

Donation, Page 20



Dante Anzolini bids farewell to MTSO.

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OPINION

Matt Craighead criticizes the MURJ's relationship with United Trauma Relief.

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Leeb Wins Big Screw, Gives Money to Pine Street Inn

By Eun J. Lee

NEWS EDITOR

Professor of Computer Science Steven B. Leeb '87, who teaches Microprocessor Control Laborato

ry (6.115), walked away with this year's Big Screw.

Leeb won the annual Alpha Phi Omega Institute Screw Competition with a total of \$1,997.71 raised for Leeb's charity, Pine Street Inn. Leeb beat his closest competitor, President Charles M. Vest by more than \$500 in donations.

"Winning this competition is the fulfillment of my 19-year dream at MIT," Leeb said. "My advisor won the Big Screw when I came to MIT as a undergraduate in 1983, and I've always wanted to win it, too."

Charity helps fight homelessness

"What we do is we provide everything from street outreach to shelter, healthcare, job training, and housing to 8,000 homeless men, women, and children each year," said Laura Alpert, a spokesperson for Pine Street Inn. "This gift will help tremendously in those efforts."

Leeb's affiliation with this charity began when he was a doctoral student. "I was in Boston

Big Screw, Page 21

WORLD & NATION

Bush Signs Farm Bill

THE WASHINGTON POST

CHICAGO

President Bush, setting aside his rhetorical devotion to free markets, signed a farm bill Monday that will shower billions of dollars in new subsidies on breadbasket states that will help determine control of Congress in November's elections.

In his first year in office, the president called for a bill that was "generous but affordable." Monday, he simply called it generous. "It will promote farmer independence, and preserve the farm way of life for generations," Bush said. "It helps America's farmers, and therefore it helps America."

The bill has infuriated crucial U.S. trading partners in Europe and Asia, and repudiates a Republican-championed 1996 law designed to wean farmers from government funds. It is estimated to cost \$180 billion over 10 years — \$83 billion more than the cost of continuing current programs, and increasing by two-thirds the payments for grain and cotton farms, most of them large operations.

U.S. Delays U.N. Vote On Iraqi Sanctions

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

UNITED NATIONS

For the second time in a week, the Bush administration postponed a vote on a U.S.-sponsored Security Council resolution designed to tighten military sanctions against Iraq and eliminate most restrictions on its trade in civilian goods.

But U.S. officials remained confident that Washington's proposal would be adopted by the 15-nation council as early as Tuesday. "We feel confident that consensus has been achieved, and we just need time for all capitals to sign on," a U.S. official here said.

The latest delay was spurred by a request Monday afternoon from Syria, an alleged buyer of discounted, illicit Iraqi oil and the lone Arab country on the council, that it be allowed to consider the resolution overnight.

Syria earlier had asked for changes in the U.S. resolution, including the insertion of a paragraph asserting Iraq's right to self defense, under Article 51 of the United Nations charter, "if an armed attack occurs" against a U.N. member.

The United States and other members of the Security Council rejected the changes.

U.S., British Forces Report Progress

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BAGRAM AIR BASE, AFGHANISTAN

U.S. and British forces both declared successes Monday in the two-steps-forward, one-back war to eradicate Taliban and al-Qaida forces in Afghanistan, even as they were targeted again from the enemy's relocated mountain strongholds.

U.S. troops on a mission in eastern Afghanistan to hunt down those responsible for menacing their base near the Khost airport with sporadic rocket fire located the launch sites but none of the perpetrators. Meanwhile, two more rockets were fired in the vicinity of the troops.

British-led Operation Snipe wrapped up after 16 days with an impressive scorecard of dozens of collapsed caves, tons of destroyed ammunition and strategic transit routes now sealed by Afghan allies. The 1,000 troops, backed by U.S. air power, scoured nearly 80 square miles of the rugged Chumara Valley between Khost and Gardez to prevent its future use as a safe haven for terrorists.

The British troops did not encounter any Taliban or al-Qaida fighters in the more than two weeks they were combing the region. And in a telling display of the persistent hit-and-run capability of the enemy, two 107mm Chinese-made rockets were trained on the soldiers as they prepared to depart.

U.S., Russia Agree to Reduce Nuclear Arms by Two-Thirds

By Dana Milbank and Sharon LaFraniere

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The United States and Russia reached agreement Monday on a treaty cutting both nations' nuclear arsenals by two-thirds, drafting a three-page pact intended to replace the last vestiges of the Cold War arms race with cooperation between the former adversaries.

The accord is to be signed in an official ceremony when President Bush visits Moscow for a summit meeting next week. It commits the countries to reduce nuclear arsenals to 1,700 to 2,200 warheads each by the end of 2012 — codifying long-standing pledges by both sides to make wholesale cuts.

"This treaty will liquidate the legacy of the Cold War," Bush said in brief remarks on the South Lawn of the White House Monday morning. "The new era will be a period of enhanced mutual security, economic security and improved relations."

The reaction was more somber in Russia, where President Vladimir Putin pronounced himself "satisfied" and his foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, acknowledged the treaty was not as comprehensive as Moscow sought. "It is a realistic document," Ivanov said.

Analysts in both countries said the agreement essentially is a face-saving gesture for Putin, who insisted on a formal accord. Putin, eager to integrate his economy with the West and to give Russians a sense of national dignity that comes with a formal agreement with the United States, yielded to almost all of Bush's demands.

The treaty marks a departure from past arms control pacts that, along with their side agreements, often filled volumes.

Honoring the Bush administration's desire for future flexibility, it contains no requirement to destroy warheads that are taken out of service. It puts no prohibition on the U.S. plan to build a missile defense

system. The pact's expiration in 10 years allows either side to return to any level it desires, and before the 10-year expiration it allows the ability to pull out with 90 days' notice.

In exchange, Bush granted one concession: having a treaty. The administration saw no need for a written agreement, and preferred any agreement not to take the form of a treaty requiring Senate ratification. Although the administration met Russia's request, the president did not agree to anything he had not pledged to do unilaterally.

"As the president said, we believed it was not necessary to have a treaty because we are in a new phase of relations," national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said in an interview on PBS's "The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer." "But the president listened to his Russian partner."

Senate Democrats and Republicans praised the agreement, and indications Monday were that it would face no significant obstacles to ratification.

Carter Opens 5-Day Cuba Visit, Meets With Leading Dissidents

By Mark Fineman

LOS ANGELES TIMES

HAVANA

Former President Carter threw himself into the ideological divide of U.S.-Cuban relations Monday, meeting over breakfast with the communist island's two leading dissidents, and then delivering a sharp broadside to the Bush administration over bioterror allegations.

Opening a five-day visit that marks the first time a current or former U.S. president has set foot in Cuba since Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, Carter challenged conservatives in the U.S. government to prove charges that Cuba has developed biological weapons technology and shared it with renegade states such as Iran.

Carter even suggested at a forum that included Castro that Bush administration officials misled either him or the American people about those allegations.

"In preparation for this unpre-

dented visit, I requested, and we all received, intense briefings from the State Department, the intelligence agencies of my country and high officials in the White House ... for them to share with us any concerns that my government had about possible terrorist activities that were supported by Cuba," Carter said after more than two hours of briefings by Cuban scientists at the country's premier biotechnology research center.

"There were absolutely no such allegations made or questions raised. I asked them specifically on more than one occasion, 'Is there any evidence that Cuba has been involved in sharing any information to any other country on Earth that could be used for terrorist purposes? And the answer from our experts on intelligence was, 'No.'"

"Maybe not coincidentally," Carter added, just a few days before he and his delegation landed in Havana on Sunday, Bush's undersecretary of state for arms control deliv-

ered a well-publicized speech to the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., and asserted, "The United States believes that Cuba has at least a limited offensive biological warfare research and development effort."

"Cuba has provided dual-use biotechnology to other rogue states," said the official, John R. Bolton.

The bioterrorism charge — and Carter's entire visit — have become the latest battlefields in the deeply polarized and emotional debate about altering America's 42-year-old policy of isolating Cuba.

The anti-Castro Cuban lobby in South Florida and in Congress have praised Bolton and condemned Carter for a visit they fear could help legitimize the Cuban leader. And the Heritage Foundation's Latin America specialist, Stephen Johnson, accused Carter of being "the perfect foil" for a move in Congress to ease America's economic embargo of the Caribbean island.

WEATHER

Dulcet Lyrical Weather

By Greg Lawson

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

In response to yesterday's weather ... I want to know, have you ever seen the rain? Who'll stop the rain? Here comes the rain again. Rainy days and Mondays always get me down. Blame it on the rain. Purple rain, Red rain, Blue rain. Into each life some rain must fall. I am the rain king. It's raining in Baltimore. It's raining men. It's raining, it's pouring, the old man is snoring. Rainy day women #12 & 35. Raindrops keep falling on my head. Singing in the rain. I wish it would rain down. Rain, rain, go away, come again some other day.

In preparation for tomorrow's weather ... I can see clearly now, the rain is gone ... It's gonna be a bright, bright, bright, sunshiny day. No rain. Here comes the sun. Good day sunshine. I'll follow the sun. Walking on sunshine. Let the sunshine in. I've got sunshine on a cloudy day. You are the sunshine of my life. You're my blue sky, you're my sunny day. You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. Set the controls for the heart of the sun. Don't let the sun go down on me.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy. Windy. A small chance of afternoon showers.

High of 60°F (16°C).

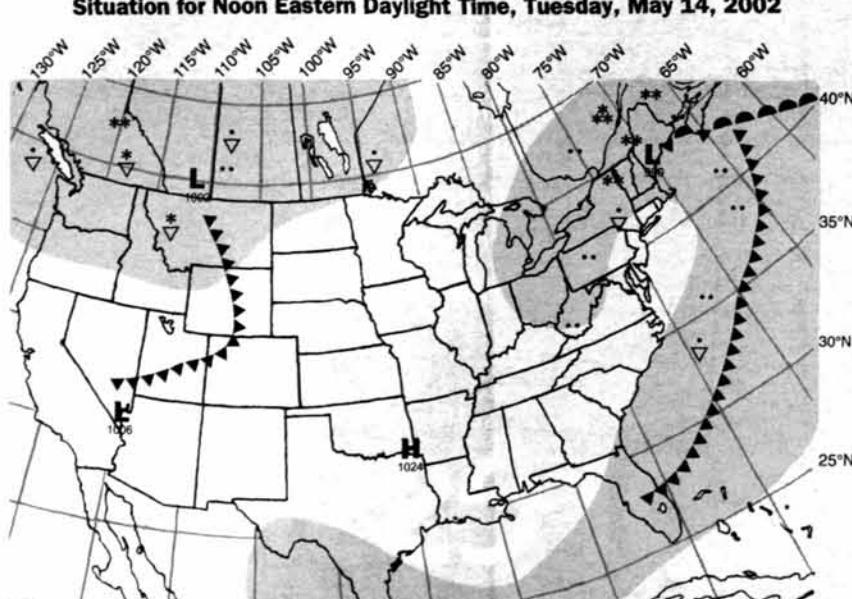
Tonight: Cloudy. Healthy westerly winds. Low 48°F (9°C).

Wednesday: Mostly sunny. Continued wind. High of 64°F (18°C). Low 48°F (9°C).

Thursday: Clear and sunny early then clouding up later. Lighter winds. High around 70°F (20° to 22°C). Low in the low 50s F (10° 12°C).

Friday and beyond: Cloudy with showers likely.

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, May 14, 2002



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	-- Trough	Snow * Rain	Fog
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Shower △ ▽	Thunderstorm T
S Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Light * •	Haze H
	▲▲▲ Stationary Front	Moderate ** ..	
		Heavy *** ::	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Palestinians Hostile to Arafat While Leader Tours West Bank

By Mark Magnier

LOS ANGELES TIMES

NABLUS, WEST BANK

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat toured the battle-scarred West Bank on Monday, encouraging his people and kissing babies' cheeks after the lifting of a ban on his movement gave him his first opportunity to travel in six months.

Even as he enjoyed freedom of movement, the Palestinian leader found himself increasingly hemmed in politically. He has been slammed by the United States and Israel for not ending suicide bombings, and by hard-line Palestinians for agreeing to exile militia members and otherwise "selling out" the cause.

President Bush, Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Sharon all reaffirmed over the past 24 hours their belief that a Palestinian state should be established. As always, however, views vary widely on how soon it should be established and how extensive it should be.

In one sign of the growing pressure Arafat faces, he opted to stay in his car Monday as it sped through the Jenin refugee camp, site of a brutal battle between Israeli forces and Palestinian gunmen last month.

Jenin residents chanted the name of Mohammed Tawanbeh, a recently killed member of the militant group Islamic Jihad, as Arafat's car approached — a challenge to the

Palestinian leader, given his recent condemnation of violence. They also reportedly set fire to the platform from which he was due to speak.

Aides to Arafat attributed the fire to an electrical short. And they said he didn't stop because the large crowds and danger of unexploded bombs threatened his safety. Others, however, said the real reason was his reluctance to face his critics.

"Arafat is weakened and losing touch with the grass roots," said Husam Khader, a leader from the Balata refugee camp and member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. "He's more afraid of real democracy than he is of Israeli incursions."

While Law Testifies in One Court, Another Calls for Priest's Record

By Elizabeth Mehren

LOS ANGELES TIMES

As two alleged victims of a pedophile priest looked on, Boston's Cardinal Bernard Law on Monday heatedly denied that he had been negligent in failing to keep the Rev. John J. Geoghan away from children.

"You could see it in his eyes that he was getting a little bit temperamental," said 27-year-old Patrick McSorley, one of 86 plaintiffs in a civil lawsuit against Law and the archdiocese.

The cardinal "seemed kind of frazzled" during the third day of his deposition, added Mark Keane, 33, who has claimed that Geoghan abused him as well. "I think Cardi-

nal Law is accustomed to being in complete control. Today he wasn't."

Law's testimony — taken at the chancery of Boston's Roman Catholic Archdiocese — came on the same day that a judge in Cambridge, Mass., ordered the archdiocese to hand over the psychiatric and medical records of another alleged pedophile priest, the Rev. Paul Shanley.

The now-defrocked Geoghan is serving a nine- to 10-year sentence for fondling a boy at a community swimming pool. His trial and conviction in January ignited a sweeping scandal over clerical sexual abuse that has included shocking disclosures about Shanley, a 71-year-old retired priest who was

arrested earlier this month in California. Shanley has pleaded not guilty to three counts of child rape.

Archdiocese spokeswoman Donna M. Morrissey had no comment on the cardinal's testimony Monday, nor on the court order in the Shanley case. Shanley's attorney, Frank Mondano, did not return a call seeking comment.

Middlesex Superior Court Justice Janet Sanders ruled Monday that by turning his records over to the archdiocese, Shanley had waived the right to keep them private. A hearing Tuesday will determine if the documents will be made public.

Shanley is a central figure in the sex abuse scandal that has led to calls for Law's resignation.

Justice Dept. Discounts Terrorist Nuclear Attack Tip

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

White House and Justice Department officials Monday dismissed a recent intelligence tip about possible attacks against U.S. nuclear facilities on or around July 4, saying it is uncorroborated and came from an unreliable source.

"Our guys just aren't taking it seriously," said a Justice Department official who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "The intelligence folks they talked to were not taking it seriously, (the) story was uncorroborated like the vast majority of the intelligence tips that come in from foreign sources."

The threat, first reported Monday by The Washington Times, was received by U.S. officials sometime last week. It suggested that an unidentified Islamic terrorist group was planning to attack a nuclear facility — perhaps the Three Mile Island power plant near Harrisburg, Pa., or another facility in the Northeast.

The Justice official said the tip came from intelligence officials in Europe, and that it did not generate any escalated threat warnings or communications among U.S. counterterrorism officials.

The official also specifically said the tip did not come from Abu Zubaida, the high-ranking al-Qaida official who has told authorities about planned attacks at U.S. financial institutions and shopping malls. Zubaida was captured March 28 during an early morning commando raid in Pakistan and has been talking to his U.S. interrogators, officials said.

Study: Anthrax Tainted Up to 5,000 Letters

THE WASHINGTON POST

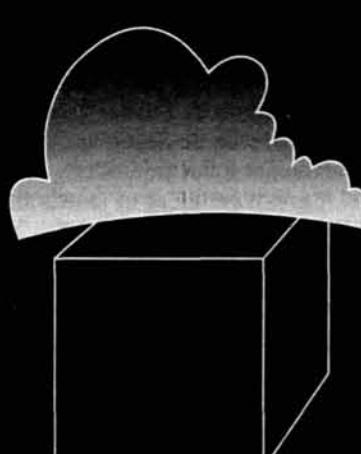
WASHINGTON

Envelopes full of anthrax spores cross-contaminated as many as 5,000 letters in the eastern United States, almost certainly causing the mysterious deaths of two women in New York City and rural Connecticut, scientists said Monday.

A mathematical model describing last fall's attacks suggested that focusing only on anthrax-laden envelopes could be a grave mistake: "The original letters were extremely dangerous," said Vanderbilt University mathematician Glenn Webb. "But there was also great danger from cross-contamination."

Webb and co-researcher Martin Blaser, chairman of medicine at the New York University Medical School, said the model could be used to predict the course of future letter-borne anthrax attacks and perhaps save lives. Their research was published Tuesday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"We hope there won't be any further outbreaks," Blaser said. "But if there were, this could help us identify the populations at risk and might help us move more quickly to find the source of the initial exposures."



Feeling irritable?

Can't eat?

Can't sleep?

Can't concentrate?

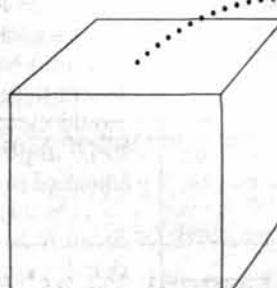
Can't enjoy life?

And it just goes on and on?

You could be suffering from

Depression

Simple Fact:
Depression is treatable.
Get out of the dark.



Talking with someone
confidentially might be all you need.

It's smart to reach out.

Make an appointment. It's free.
Prompt appointments including evenings.

24 hour urgent care including
weekday 2-4 pm walk-in hours.

Mental Health Service
617.253.2916

It's smart to reach out.



OPINION

A Flawed Argument for Divestment



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Editorial

A group of MIT and Harvard faculty leading a petition calling for the two universities to stop investing in companies that invest in Israel has gained national attention. Similar efforts exist at

Princeton, the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Michigan, among others. The petition, now signed by more than 440 faculty, staff, students, and alumni, cites "human rights abuses against Palestinians at the hands of the Israeli government" and the actions of Israel's military as reasons for withdrawing support for Israel in the form of corporate investments. *The Tech* believes the argument for divestment is flawed on several levels, and that divestment would hurt MIT without benefit to the cause of peace.

The petition specifically calls on MIT and Harvard to "divest from Israel, and from U.S. companies that sell arms to Israel." Among the companies from which MIT and Harvard are being asked to divest is Boeing, whose Apache helicopters are used by the Israeli military — a direct link to the current conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians. However, *The Tech* is not convinced that the majority of the companies listed have any such link to the conflict. The list includes companies whose nature does not warrant divestment — these are not defense contractors. Rather, companies including Microsoft Corp., McDonald's Corp., Lucent Technologies, IBM, Intel Corp., Hewlett-Packard Co., General Motors Corp., and Coca-Cola Co. are listed as having ties to Israel. In many cases, companies such as McDonald's simply operate franchises in Israel — these are global corporations with operations in a highly developed economy.

On a practical level, divesting from these companies would do MIT and its employees a disservice. Divestment from the list of stocks presented by the petitioners would mean that MIT would relinquish its positions in a handful of blue-chip stocks. Using employees' retirement funds to make a political statement is a questionable policy.

Furthermore, MIT's investments in companies like Microsoft, General Motors and Hewlett Packard go far beyond holding corporate stocks and bonds. MIT is involved in strategic partnerships with these companies which bring in millions of dollars that increase research budgets and fund stipends for the Institute's graduate students. Ending all ties with corporations connected to Israel — a much stronger statement than simply selling off

Thinking Critically About Divestment

By Rima Arnaout and Eun J. Lee

One of the chief reasons the editorial gives against divestment is that it would be difficult and impractical for MIT to undertake. Undoubtedly, divesting from companies that sell

Dissent

military equipment to Israel, support settlement building or base

their businesses in occupied territories, or financially support a government that has displaced and killed Palestinian civilians, would be difficult. If divestment was not a matter of re-investing millions of dollars, it wouldn't be a statement worth making. That said, it is not sufficient to reject the divestment campaign simply because it would inconvenience MIT. Attention must be paid, as the editorial implies, to whether the need to speak out against an injustice merits the inconvenience.

On this matter, the editorial says that MIT should not divest from Israel because the situation is morally ambiguous, that divestment would be tantamount to placing the sole blame for Mideast violence on Israel, although there are transgressions on both sides. There certainly are grave crimes committed on both sides; Palestinian suicide bombers set out to murder Israeli civilians, and those who support them must be stopped. The petitioners for divestment agree, saying in their statement that they "find the recent attacks on Israeli citizens unacceptable and abhorrent." MIT students, faculty, and staff should do what they can to denounce and prevent suicide bombing.

However as far as is known, MIT is already uninvolved in funding suicide bombers, compensating their families, or

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors, features editor, and opinion editors.

Dissents are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and **editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m.

stocks — is a move MIT cannot afford to make.

The call for MIT and Harvard to divest requires a significant alteration in the schools' endowments and employee retirement funds. One might make the argument that such a change is warranted when taking a clear moral stand, but *The Tech* does not find the Middle East conflict to offer a clear moral distinction. In opposing the divestment petition, *The Tech* does not attempt to justify questionable actions of the Israeli government. Rather, a full view of the situation shows misdeeds on both sides.

If, however, one is to believe that MIT and Harvard should sever all ties to Israel, one must call for an end to ties with the U.S. government. The United States supports Israel as an ally both militarily and financially, yet the petitioners do not call for MIT to cut all funding and research ties with the Department of Defense or other government agencies. MIT would practically cease to exist without government funding as the United States remains the biggest supporter of research at MIT. Thus independence from the United States is impossible in practice. However, without calling for such action, the petition seems somewhat incomplete.

It is unlikely that MIT will act on the divestment petition, especially considering the fact that MIT did not divest from South Africa in the face of Apartheid — an issue with less moral ambiguity. However, the petitioners are succeeding in another regard. They have drawn attention to the crisis and sparked debate on campus, as evidenced by last Monday's pro-divestment teach-in and the anti-divestment counter-petition signed by more than 2500 faculty, staff, student, and alumni from MIT and Harvard.

However, the counter-petition accuses the divestment petition of being one-sided without offering an even-handed alternative. The counter-petition, justifying Israeli military actions as self-defense, places too much blame for the violence on Palestinians. What has been missing from the debate thus far is an arena in which all opinions are equally represented.

With Palestine Awareness Week underway, the time is right for an open forum, similar to the series on Apartheid that took place years ago, where people with different, passionate opinions can debate the divestment issue. Such a discussion series would foster constructive discussion rather than the rhetoric which so often permeates the Israeli-Palestinian question.

The editorial board reached its decision with a vote of 7-2.

To Reach Us

doing business with the terrorist organizations that may support the bombers. MIT does, however, seem to invest in the Israeli side of the aggression: violation of international law and murder, displacement, and occupation that has been documented by Amnesty International and other human rights organizations inside and outside Israel. Divesting would not be placing blame solely on Israel, it would just be withdrawing from the part of the aggression MIT is involved in. MIT should not have anything to do with aggression and killings of Israelis or Palestinians.

It is not yet clear to us whether divesting is the best way for MIT to make a statement against the Israeli government's military aggression against Palestinians. But in considering it, one must recognize that divestment isn't a bad idea simply because it is difficult, divesting doesn't mean that Israel is the sole perpetrator of aggression, and that MIT can also make a statement against forms of Palestinian aggression against civilians.

We support the editorial's call for all interested members of the MIT community to engage in open, academic dialogue on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict that goes deeper than the usual emotional, reactionary exchanges on this topic. Petitioners, counterpetitioners, column writers, you've caught our attention. Now it's time to turn this into an honest, fearless debate worthy of MIT.

Please see page 7 for Letters to the Editor.

two days before the date of publication.

Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of *The Tech*. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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The MURJ-United Trauma Relief Connection

Matt Craighead

When one thinks about what sorts of articles would be found in an "MIT Undergraduate Research Journal," one thinks of articles by students about their latest UROP work. You might see cutting-edge research in science and engineering; perhaps some in the social sciences and humanities as well. So when the latest MURJ showed up, I was rather shocked to see it filled with such articles as "On the Refugee Problem in Eritrea" and "Land Mines: A Humanitarian Crisis."

Let me dispel any doubts about my position by noting that many of the articles are wholly legitimate. In the Science News in Review section, you can find such items as "A Step In the Fight against Cancer"; "Gene Therapy Corrects Sickle-Cell Disease in Mice"; "Converting Heat to Energy without a Generator"; etc. These items are exactly on target.

Likewise, I am not disparaging the work of many of the student contributors who wrote for MURJ. Elizabeth Stephens' article on "Palladium Coatings of Targets for Inertial Fusion Energy" epitomizes what belongs in this journal. The article describes a scientific problem, describes experiments on a potential solution to the problem, and gives detailed numerical results in several charts.

Yet all is not well. Consider an item in the World Science News in Review section, "Biotech Crop Use Increases Globally." The article begins, "Amid great controversy concerning their [biotech crops'] safety..." The editors fail to inform the reader that there is little scientific reason to believe that genetically modified crops pose substantial health dangers. Lest you think that I am a tool for corporate interests like Monsanto, don't take it from me — take it from Patrick Moore, a co-founder of Greenpeace, who tells us that "the campaign of fear now being waged against genetic modification is based largely on fantasy and a complete lack of respect for

science and logic."

In addition, the article informs us that "[biotech crops] may cause developing world industries to suffer and could lead to hunger among farmers..." In fact, if biotech crops meet their promise, boosting food production and reducing prices, world hunger would likely be greatly reduced. Someone who earns \$250 a year would likely be overjoyed to find out that he could feed his family for less.

Let's skip ahead to Julia de Kadt's "Land Mines" article. First of all, it is somewhat bizarre that this would appear in MURJ.

It may be a coincidence that three of eleven articles in the journal are written by UTR members about mainly political topics; it would not be difficult to add a small item at the end of each piece saying, for example, Julia de Kadt is working with the student group United Trauma Relief to ban land mines. Such full disclosure is not only good policy, but is also essential to avoiding a breach of scientific and journalistic ethics.

Aren't land mines a political topic? How is stating a brief history of the campaign to ban land mines "research?" Does not this article belong in, say, *Counterpoint*, the opinion pages of *The Tech*, or a political science or foreign policy publication?

In any case, de Kadt fails to mention the main argument against banning land mines: it is contrary to our national interest. She dismisses without comment the idea that land mines are essential to our military position in Korea, even though — if not for our troops and (dare I say it) land mines — the militaristic North would easily overrun the democratic, industrialized South. The issue is very simple. It is irrational for the United States to rule out in advance, in all possible scenarios the use of some weapon, if you start from the premise that our government's most fundamental purpose is to protect the lives and livelihoods of American citizens

from foreign aggression.

This is not the first time we've heard about land mines this semester. You may recall the campaign against land mines by the student group United Trauma Relief. It happens that UTR's founder, Sanjay Basu, is also the founder and top editor of MURJ. UTR's online "update" reveals that de Kadt is a UTR member and is in fact UTR's "point person" on land mines. She previously co-authored a column with Basu in *The Tech* on sweatshops, and also wrote in an earlier MURJ about AIDS drugs — the focus of another of UTR's campaigns.

De Kadt is not the only MURJ contributor to hail from Basu's UTR. Selam Daniel, who writes about Eritrean refugees, is also a UTR member and is UTR's "point person" on the issue of (surprise, surprise) Eritrean refugees. (Once again, this topic is more appropriate to a foreign policy journal.)

We find also a MURJ article from Shefali Oza on tuberculosis. This is an entirely valid topic for a science journal, but the article is mostly about international organizations and their responses to the disease, rather than about (for example) a new scientific breakthrough in fighting TB. Oza is also a UTR member — she is the second UTR point person for land mines, and is involved in contacting a Moldovan project on AIDS and tuberculosis.

There are two issues here. First, MURJ needs to decide whether it is really a research journal or a journal on (as the editors state on page two) "humanitarian and environmental crises." A research journal can have feature articles, but they should be directly related to science and research. For example, Michael Sekora's feature on "The Big Bang's Pervasive Plasma" is directly related to new developments in physics. It is difficult to see how land mines are or could be a research topic fit for publication in MURJ.

Second, for the sake of its own reputation, MURJ needs to ensure that it is not a vehicle for campus activism by subterfuge,

but a legitimate journal. It may be mere coincidence that no fewer than three of eleven articles in the journal are written by UTR members about mainly political topics, that these topics are same ones they are addressing as members of UTR, and that the founder of MURJ is also the founder of UTR. Likewise, it may not be by design that the news item about biotech crops is almost exclusively negative about this technology. At some point, however, such a remarkable string of coincidences starts to look like a political agenda.

Nowhere in MURJ are the UTR links disclosed. It would be easy to add a small item at the end of each piece saying, e.g., "Julia de Kadt, a member of the class of 2002 in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, is working with the student group United Trauma Relief to ban land mines." Such disclosure is not only good policy, but is also essential to avoiding a breach of scientific and journalistic ethics.

MURJ should seek the views of both sides on controversial issues, especially for news items. Statements along the lines of "the Bush administration has failed to address this issue" (p. 10) are inappropriate and belong in an opinion piece, not a news item. It might be reasonable to introduce a one-page opinion column about a major timely scientific issue, but elsewhere such comments are irresponsible. MURJ should have sought the opinion of a scientist who supports carbon credits (p. 5-6). And if the editors wish to include articles about "humanitarian crises," they need to ensure all points of view are presented. An article about AIDS drugs should present (for instance) the view that drug companies have a fundamental right to their intellectual property, rather declaring flat-out that "the global patenting of life-saving drugs should not be permitted at the cost of human lives" (p. 39, Volume 5).

If MURJ continues along its current path, its reputation as an impartial research journal will likely be irrevocably damaged. This would be a shame for the many MIT undergraduates who would like to share their research results with the MIT community; so I urge the MURJ editors to undertake these necessary reforms to preserve MURJ as a viable publication.

The Nuclear Menace

Guest Column
Brice Smith

Reading Colleen Horin's response ["Arguing for Burial," May 7] to the Yucca Mountain article, I must say that I was impressed by how in such a short letter she was able to so easily fit all three of the major myths pro-nuclear advocates have been using for decades. Namely, that underground storage at Yucca is a safe alternative to highly vulnerable on-site storage, that nuclear power is a safe and clean energy source that only the uninformed oppose, and that the "civilian" use of nuclear power can somehow be separated from the "military" use. Each of these myths was constructed by the nuclear industry and their proponents in order to mask the enormous risk nuclear power actually represents to the world.

The problem of current storage is far worse than even Horin realizes. Currently there are 131 storage pools, not 78, spread across 35 states. Many of these contain 10 times the radioactivity of a reactor and are protected by flimsy metal buildings. Although little research is being done on long-term treatment, there are safer ways to store the waste onsite using above-ground dry casks kept in hardened concrete buildings. It is a far more expensive alternative to pools, which explains why it is not currently used, but it is still far safer than transporting the waste and clearing the way for the creation of thousands of additional tons.

Even if a single depository still seems like a good idea, entrusting the oversight to the Department of Energy, which is currently promoting nuclear power like a Madison Avenue PR firm, raises serious questions about their "exhaustive EIS" (Environmental Impact Statement). A General Accounting Office report found 273 outstanding questions, but the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has already ruled that there is enough information for an application. This ruling is despite such major concerns as the unexpected discovery that 12.3 million gallons of water flow through the site every year and that two other current storage sites the DOE promised would be secure for 10,000 years

are already leaking waste and may contaminate groundwater in less than 10 years. Allison Macfarlane, director of the Yucca Mountain project here at MIT, told the *Los Angeles Times* that "there are a lot of issues that remain unresolved" and that "we should not be in a rush." Finally, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, an 11-member panel of experts appointed by Congress, concluded in January that the government's technical case is "weak to moderate."

Just in case you still think these risks are better than the current situation, in 2036 when Yucca is full, there will still be 44,000 tons of spent fuel at these 131 local sites, 15 percent more than today! Trying to fix the problem of greed and shortsightedness by ramming through an even more shortsighted plan hardly seems like an improvement.

Second, nuclear energy is not the clean, safe, and economical energy source the industry claims it is, and it is far more than some fringe that has realized this. Sweden, Germany, New Zealand, and Italy have all chosen to either phase out or ban nuclear power. In addition, Belgium's parliament is currently considering legislation to phase out their reactors. Economically, the nuclear industry requires billions of dollars in subsidies to stay afloat. This massive funneling of public money into private pockets doesn't even take into account the back end cost of decommissioning facilities. In England it is estimated that even if no new reactors are built, it will cost \$124 billion to handle the cleanup. In this country, the bill will run closer to \$400 billion.

Unfortunately, this column is far too short to even mention a fraction of past nuclear accidents. Everyone has heard of Chernobyl, which contaminated an area roughly the size of Texas and killed up to 30,000 people (some as far away as France), and Three Mile Island, which forced the evacuation of 150,000 people and led to a minimum of 430 infant deaths. Beyond this

there are literally hundreds of other serious nuclear accidents that have occurred around the world. To name a few: In October 1957 a plutonium fire at Windscale in England, caused dozens of cancer deaths and forced officials to destroy all milk produced for the next 6 weeks on the surrounding 600 farms. In January 1961, an explosion at the National Reactor Testing Station in Idaho killed three, leaving them so heavily contaminated that their hands had to be buried with

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radioactive waste and their bodies interred in lead coffins. In November 1971, the Northern States Power Company dumped 50,000 gallons of radioactive waste into the Mississippi. In January 1983, nearly 208,000 gallons of contaminated water was dumped into the Tennessee River at the Browns Ferry plant. In September 1999, uranium at the Sumitomo Metal Mining Company in Japan went critical, sending radiation levels outside to 15,000 times their normal level and killing at least two workers. Officials told 313,000 people to remain indoors and said locally grown vegetables should not be harvested. It is a testament to the industry's public relation that anyone could still believe in their self-proclaimed "record of safety."

Third, we come to the oldest myth of all, that of the "civilian atom." This "peaceful atom" myth, more creditable to Eisenhower than Einstein, grew out of the post-war atomic boom. Right from the start, nuclear power and nuclear weapons were joined at the hip. Almost all second generation nuclear

weapons states have joined the club by using plutonium recovered from reactors. Britain was the first to choose this route since enriching uranium is much more complex and expensive than extracting plutonium. They were soon followed by the French. Nuclear power has also allowed developing countries to join the club with the aid of foreign companies. The plutonium for India's nuclear tests came from the Tarapur reactors built by U.S. and Canadian companies. The material for Israel's undeclared nuclear arsenal came from the French supplied reactor at Dimona. Interestingly, on June 7, 1981, the Israelis chose to invade Iraq and destroy the French built Osirak reactor rather than allow Saddam Hussein access to the plutonium it would provide. Finally, Ichiro Ozawa, the leader of Japan's liberal party, recently removed all doubt as to this connection when he warned China that, if provoked, they

"have enough plutonium at nuclear power plants in Japan to make several thousand such warheads." Even from this brief introduction, I think that it is clear that there is really no such thing as the "peaceful atom."

Any column like this will always be incomplete, but I think that it is clear that the concerns about nuclear power and Yucca Mountain are far from alarmist. If as a people we feel any responsibility to future generations, it is vital that we set our sites on a time scale appropriate to the problem and do everything within our power to prevent its growth. The only rational solution is to follow the lead of other countries and immediately move to phase out nuclear power in favor of conservation, to greatly reduce consumerism, and to increase focus on developing renewables. If not, then 30 years from now (if we are extremely lucky that is) we will be having this same discussion, only we will have an immeasurably larger problem to deal with and even fewer options.

Brice Smith is a graduate student in the Department of Physics.

Sticking To Our Principles

Guest Column
Saad Z. Shakhshir

The other day after an e-mail was sent out to several lists encouraging people to sign the Harvard/MIT petition to divest from Israel. There were immediate responses from people and I wrote the following in response to their e-mails (it is somewhat modified because in the original I made some direct references to their e-mails).

I am deeply offended by the total disregard that some seem to have for Palestinian life. Some claim that, "Israel is an important American ally in our global war against terror." The "global war against terror," does that include my friends? Yes, I am Palestinian and yes I have had friends who have been murdered by Israeli soldiers, friends whose houses have been demolished, friends whose livelihood is threatened daily by the occupation. And no, they are not "terrorists." In fact one of these friends was with me at a camp for Arab and Israeli youth called Seeds of Peace and his name is Asel Asleh. Search for him on the web and you will read the horrible story of his death.

Why is it that whenever someone criticizes Israeli actions, he or she is branded as being either pro-Palestinian or anti-Semitic? How about defining them as being pro-justice or pro-human rights? Some are relating this petition to calls by Hitler to boycott Jewish businesses. Note that the petition only refers to the U.S. government's arms sales to Israel and those businesses that are involved in the selling of

Yes, I am Palestinian and yes I have had friends who have been murdered by Israeli soldiers. And no, they are not 'terrorists.'

arms to Israel. Why the continual hiding behind the Holocaust? The Arabs did not cause the Holocaust; there is no "historic hatred" between Arabs and Jews. Jews lived under Islamic rule for over a thousand years and their society flourished to levels unheard of in Christian Europe. Ninety percent of the Jews in the world at one point were "Sephardim" (a term given to the Jews in Spain) and this was under Islamic rule. The victims of such a tragedy as the Holocaust should not use it as a pretext to repress another people.

The hatred was initiated by illegal immigration to Palestine, the threat to Palestinian land which resulted in an unjust partition back in 1947, which of course, the Palestinians did not accept. If I came to your house, told you God promised it to me and my family, partitioned it, would you say, yes please do take my house?

But let us not argue about the past. There is an Israel today. This petition does not call for the destruction of Israel, does not call for the killing of Israelis, it calls for an end to the occupation. A people are being occupied and this is morally wrong, no matter who the people are. The daily humiliation, the lack of freedom, the extrajudicial killings, the demolition of home — all this is being done officially by the government of Israel with direct funding from the United States. The Apache helicopters that have destroyed the house of a friend of mine are American. As a country that does support democracy, that does support freedom, that does support morals and human rights, the least I would expect of this country is to stop funding such inhumane acts.

Should we ask the American government to stop funding Hamas? To stop the \$3 billion in aid it gives to the Islamic Jihad? The Apache helicopters, the tanks, the spare parts, the intelligence — this all goes to Israel and it is being used to repress a people. The U.S. is blindly behind Israel. Why did Israel not allow a UN inspection team to go into Jenin? I would like to find one justifiable reason for that and for the silence of the United States on the matter.

I cannot believe that calling for an end to injustice and oppression, calling for an end to the occupation of the Palestinian people, calling for an end to illegal settlement building on occupied land, is being met with opposition in a country that is founded upon the ideals of democracy and freedom.

Saad Z. Shakhshir is a member of the Class of 2004.

It's Better to Be a CEO

Ken Nesmith

Can you imagine working 40-, 50-, or 60-hour weeks at physically stressful, menial tasks and yet not being able to afford the most basic necessities of life — food, shelter, perhaps clothing for your spouse and child, who also work to contribute to family income? Of course not. We can't fully understand it unless we've experienced it, and as MIT students, most of us haven't.

Much more suited to our position is airy economic analysis of the consequences of instituting labor standards and minimum wages designed to help the bottom dwellers, as Dan Tortorice provided last Friday. The least we can do is ensure that that analysis is accurate and respectful.

Economic theory suggests that raising the price of labor means that less labor will be purchased for two reasons. One is that businesses will substitute

other inputs for low-

wage labor in order to

achieve greater effi-

cency and higher

profits. The other is

that businesses will

raise prices in

response to their

increased costs, caus-

ing consumers to buy

less, leading to

reduced output and

lower profits for the

firms and consequent

reductions in labor force. As MIT students,

although we cannot perfectly empathize with

the poor, we can grasp simple concepts easily,

and as such, we can skip any further didactics

about cost and benefit.

No matter how boundless our confidence in the primitive theory, evidence does not support the position that properly implemented labor standards ultimately hurt the laborer. A minimum wage increase in the mid-1990s, predicted by its opponents to devastate industries reliant on low-wage labor and to cause massive unemployment, had no ill effect; in fact, historical minimum wage increases are not at all regarded in economics textbooks as destructive to business or employees.

Current efforts to institute labor standards in apparel factories worldwide have been increasingly comprehensive and successful. Several successful companies make deliberate, conscious efforts to ensure that their clothes are produced in responsible working environments, even though it may be immediately cheaper to make use of any factory no matter how repulsive its treatment of employ-

ees.

Here in the United States, living wage campaigns have been growing in popularity, and for good reason.

Whatever the empirical evidence, living wage laws make good economic sense. If employees are not paid enough to meet the basic costs of living, it is the government, and hence the taxpayer, who offers them subsidies through social welfare programs. Living wage laws shift that cost away from the taxpayer to the employer. Without charitable intervention by government and private charities, paying poverty wages becomes an unsustainable practice.

Living wages have been shown to lower worker turnover and absenteeism, reduce employee training costs, raise morale and productivity, and strengthen the consumer market. A brief note about productivity and wages is also illuminating: between 1973 and 1998, worker productivity increased by 46.5 percent.

During the same interval, hourly wages for a average workers fell 6.2 percent, and weekly wages fell 12 percent, adjusting

Much more suited to our position is airy economic analysis of the consequences of instituting labor standards and minimum wages. The least we can do is ensure that that analysis is accurate and respectful.

for inflation.

Too often, the same pundits who hold tightly to free market dogma concerning those workers paid least readily look past flagrant market abuses at the highest levels. More often than we'd like to admit, the mechanics of private enterprise are determined less by the market than they are by simple whim. Skyrocketing CEO salaries demonstrate that boards of trustees of companies performing quite poorly do not hesitate to mete out massive sums of money to themselves and their leaders even as their business falters. In 2001, the economy struggled. Corporate profits declined by an average of 35 percent; the S&P 500 dropped 13 percent. Yet median CEO pay grew 7 percent above salaries that had already grown exorbitantly in the 1990s, according to *The New York Times*.

Enron was recently found to have aggressively manipulated western power grids against the deregulated California power market during the depths of the crisis, making about \$30 billion through what amounts to theft. This travesty seems all the more nauseating when considered in conjunction with the

vicious, intentional deceptions the company's leaders laid upon its employees and stockholders as they made huge personal profits above the collapsing infrastructure, wrecking their employees' lives as they did so. Again and again, we see that at the highest levels of business, tremendous sums of money are doled out willy-nilly even for poor performance, simply because it's easy to do so.

Global free trade is not an easily judged phenomenon. Certainly its evils are well known, and its benefits can be elusive. History does not provide us with ready examples of nations who transformed themselves via global capitalism, i.e. labor exploitation, from third world nations to something better than that. Those that have done so, including several nations in southern Asia, had the economic protection of tariffs for key industries as well as other inhibitors to unchecked free trade.

These are now forbidden by the World Trade Organization, as are any laws designed to protect the fragile integrity of the environment or the populace that would limit a company's ability to generate profit. National sovereignty has been replaced with economic sovereignty. It is ironic that United States, free trade's chief priest and practitioner, recently enacted tariffs on steel imports to clumsily protect our own industry. Even as we wallow in wealth, we cannot endure free trade's lightest pains as it miserably tests the mettle of nations and peoples around the globe.

But it would be deceitful to pretend that globalization is some monstrosity that we foist upon a global lower class. The simple reality is that workers choose to work in these factories, implying that they represent a better opportunity than whatever else life has offered them. While this doesn't excuse hellish conditions and abuses, the fact that it is their choice to work there significantly changes the structure of the debate. This was best evidenced only this spring, when workers from garment factories in Bangladesh toured the U.S. to speak about their working conditions. Yet they pleaded with students not to boycott stores who sold their products, because they feared losing their jobs.

It seems impossible to even approach such systematic, widespread problems, especially given current demands upon our time. Perhaps we can just be thankful that it is not a favorable decision for us to work in sweatshop conditions or otherwise demeaning environments. We're quite fortunate, so let's try to have at least some thought for those who are faced with such hardships, beyond, "sorry, that's capitalism." It really is nearly the least we can do.

Is SEVIS a Savior?

Ashcroft's Mistaken Policy on International Students

Philip Burrowes

Attorney General John Ashcroft explained the proposed Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) in a press conference last Friday. In development by the INS since the 1990s — it was formerly known as the Coordinated Interagency Partnership Regulating International Students (CIPRIS) — it seems like a positive venture. What is wrong with centralizing and modernizing government records?

Besides philosophical arguments against any further government monitoring, Ashcroft's choice of words seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the point. Security concerns do not allow the attorney general to confuse the role international students play in the United States, but should make him address the issue with greater clarity and understanding.

He is clearly mistaken, for example, in his belief that the United States is "unique" in its role relative to international students. True, some institutions in this country, such as the Institute itself, carry reputations that attract applicants as few others would, but on the whole this country's high education system is not a singular phenomenon. Indeed, France and Britain receive many immigrants from their former colonies.

Let us not forget that American citizens also go abroad, as is the case of many soldiers stationed in other countries (if not at the same levels directly following World War II). Disproportionate levels of foreign students in American higher education reflect issues within domestic secondary education, not the intellectual wealth of U.S. colleges; our high schools simply produce fewer qualified pupils.

This is despite the obstacles placed in the way of those applying for student or exchange visas in the first place. It is not merely a set of "limited conditions" like the "desire to breathe freely, to live peacefully, to respect the rights and the dignity of their neighbors" that must be met. Ashcroft would do well to examine an actual review process.

While lacking the official lottery and quota aspects of other visas, discretion is left to on-site and understaffed consulate officials, so for many applicants it can be a hit and miss process (witness the 40 percent rejection rate for Chinese applicants in 2001). Disciplines on the State Department's "Technology Watch List" receive vastly more stringent attention, but with similar results.

Such students don't necessarily come to the United States to use their knowledge for malicious purposes, but this is in line with restrictions on export of certain products. Ashcroft, moreover, believes the opposite is possible; "Allowing foreign students to study here is one of the ways we convey ... our principles to those who will return to lead their countries."

Yes, many politicians, jurists, and leading academics in other countries are educated in the United States, but this is only positive to the extent they are given the right advice, which in turn presumes a supremacy (and universality) of the American experience. Without debating that point, there remain many individuals who do not come to give back, but simply to gain for themselves. However unfortunate that may be, it means that students need not affect global security, or may even benefit the United States more than their native lands.

No wonder Ashcroft is so worried about "those who disguise themselves and their

intentions" under the guise of student status; he attributes so much importance to students in the first place. His story has the United States playing an influential training role to the rest of the world through individual scholars. Danger exists only to the degree a destabilizing individual may penetrate that tutelary system and damage the United States itself. Which is where he sees the Department of Justice stepping in, to "protect the nation and its citizens from those who seek to enter our country under false pretenses."

This is a very adversarial approach to the world, not altogether a departure from administrative norm but still incongruous to the discussion of schools. Interaction has been key to academia since the dialectic, and the more the United States convinces itself that it somehow can (and must) protect education as if it were a natural resource, the more it will find its schools becoming sunset industries.

Protection should not be thrown to the side. Open borders — like most philosophical ideals — are not feasible given the global context and the United States' size. Identity theft is too easy given the decentralization and subsequent redundancy in I-20 distribution. Modernization of INS administration should mean more efficient visa review, which helps both "sides."

Still, immigration has never had a been as big a problem as Americans have believed, especially for the purposes of education. Typical fears of a subclass of low-cost workers taking jobs away from Americans does not seem compatible with the academic discipline. Any threat displayed by an international is no greater than other residents of this country. The potential loss by making them feel unwelcome, however, is another story.

Adios, But Not Goodbye

Khoon Tee Tan

The time to leave is near for those of us in the first batch of the CMI exchange program. How strange it is to return to a place so steeped in tradition as Cambridge, England, from a young and all-too-enthusiastic tech school of New England! And how much stranger to return from no less a place than Senior House to a place where neatly manicured lawns are off-bounds to petty ones, a place where only a select few may tread on the grass at all times of the year, whereas others are presumably allowed to float over, in the parlance of Harry Potter. I miss the good old Cambridge.

So the time has come, for someone who has had much to write about, to wrap up those thoughts that have appeared in these very pages. Over the past weeks, I have voiced various opinions on an assortment of social, political and economic issues. None of the views offered were targeted to arrive at populist or ideologically based conclusions on complex issues. These pieces have been written with the intention of encouraging thinking and discussion on a variety of issues which I personally deem important and on account of this, I hope you agree. In attempting to write, I have been forced to think hard, to question my own views and assumptions — internal debates are a healthy thing, if not carried to the extreme.

One who makes any serious attempt at separating the real issues from the symbolic ones, which usually manifest as selective historical "facts" interpreted exploitively, is less likely to assume superiority of morals or wisdom based on a jaundiced view of the world. Indeed, at the heart of many present-day conflicts lie real, legitimate, present-day issues, not abstract symbols. Of course, in delving deeper into issues, one is likely to form opinions, but I also like to think that none of my views were made on the basis of narrowly defined identity or ideology. Our faiths must lie in reason and rationality, while realizing that these are luxuries not often afforded by those in infinitely more dire straits. I am confident that those who are not blinded by hatred, colored by prejudice and are truly free to think for themselves, would be able to find common

ground on broad principles of justice and fairness, without perfectly agreeing on how to set about achieving such ideals.

The events of Sept. 11 horrified all Americans and shocked the world. The images of the WTC towers collapsing and the Pentagon in flames that morning are indelibly etched in my mind. That no one deserves to be met with such barbarism goes without saying, and those who carried out such acts must not, and have not, been allowed to get away with them. While the anger is understandable, I have also been impressed with the swift and most rational response of the MIT administration in strengthening the sense of community on campus, rather than allowing events to sway the mood to the extremes. It was for those unthinkable scenarios, rather than those we can imagine, that such action was essential.

Enough said. How about my time here at MIT in general? To say the least, I have had a good time. I feel that I have learned much from my teachers, and from my peers. I enjoyed my lectures and labs at MIT. Of course, we all know how randomness affects everything, so we are forever subject to the ups and downs of life; but the mean, if you will, has been that of overall enjoyment. Having experienced both the Cambridge and MIT systems, one cannot help but make critical comparisons.

Some see the relative freedom given to MIT lecturers to shape their own courses as a boon, and to others, a bane. Teaching styles do vary across the board, in any university. Some see standardization, via a committee that decides on the syllabus, as a way of maintaining a certain standard of teaching without being overly taxing on students. This is a good way, it works, but the essential element is collective feedback from both teachers and students, so there is no reason why a course should suffer simply because a committee of people are not meeting to decide on what is to be taught. While important, it is unfortunate that feedback at MIT should be done once off at the end of the semester, via an anonymous form to protect the identity of those students who complain the most. Maybe anonymity is important, but filling in forms at the end of a course is, I find, less effective than engaging in direct conversation with people.

Is there a third way? Cambridge University has a system in which online feedback forms can be filled on the go, that is, as the course runs. Such comments are relayed to the lecturer anonymously. Still no conversation takes place, but it is probably better than only having feedback at the end, when specific details are often left out, completely forgotten and hence, nothing can be learnt from them. To be fair, in one of my MIT courses, this is already being practised in the least complicated of ways: using scraps of paper to fill in at the end of each 2.06/13.80 class.

As for having graded problem sets, I am unpersuaded that having my learning curve graded is essential for me to learn new things. But then many people tell me that without such "incentives" to work, most people just won't work. Is that true? Perhaps. We don't have graded problem sets in Cambridge, and maybe that is why Cambridge students strike me as somewhat more casual towards work, but then again, many are simply loath to admit to doing work, curiously seen as some social deficiency.

The most successful academic system is one that fosters intellectual curiosity and encourages thinking and experimentation, while providing the basic analytical tools to understand the world around us. The ability to learn new things on our own, to draw the correct conclusions from our observations, and to adapt to new and challenging circumstances, are essential elements of human progress. The forte of Cambridge scholarship lies in its rigorous theoretical grounding. The strength of an MIT education lies in its broad educational philosophy, involving subjects outside one's major, as well as its emphasis on experimentation.

It is my great fortune to have had the opportunity to experience the best of both worlds. To think that as a secondary school student in Malaysia, MIT was my dream university! How intricate the ways of the world must be that I should come here, eventually, from one Cambridge to another.

Well, to those of you who are visiting Cambridge University next year from MIT, we look forward to seeing you. And as for the rest, I bid you farewell, but this is just adios and not goodbye. For our paths may well cross again some day.

Letters To The Editor

Questionable Comic

The Friday issue of *The Tech* has hopefully reached its lowest point ever as a newspaper worthy of anyone's time. The caricature on page four comparing Israel in 2002 to the Nazi regime of 1942 is despicable and shows a complete and utter lack of knowledge in both history and understanding. It is something I would expect from one of the state-run Arab newspapers hoping to rouse anti-Israel sentiment for whom journalistic integrity is an oxymoron.

The National Socialist regime carried out a planned and methodical annihilation of groups of individuals based solely on their religion. It was a government built on hate and complete disregard for the value of human life or the sovereignty of other nations. Over 6 million Jews and millions of other ethnic minorities were murdered. At no point in time did these individuals pose a threat to the German civilian life. They were harmless civilians themselves and loyal Germans. Members of the European Jewry were not committing suicide bombings in downtown Berlin. They were not harboring resistance fighters.

If you are seeking to imply that Israel is beating down a harmless, innocent population, you are sadly mistaken. While it is true that Israel is the superpower in the region, it is not always the case that Israel brings all its power to bear, as was the case in Jenin. As much destruction as there was in the refugee camp, which is different than the actual city, Israel could just as easily have employed superior firepower in the assault and leveled the entire city without endangering a single soldier's life. Yet, the country whose actions you compare to Nazi Germany's sent in its infantry to minimize casualties to innocent Palestinians. Yes, innocents were killed. No war, and believe me this is war, comes without the loss of life to innocents. However, the Government of Israel could no longer rely on its past partner for peace, a supposed reformed terrorist who has since returned to his roots, to guarantee the security of Israel's citizens.

In your haste to criticize Israel, I recommend you don't overlook the treatment

handed out towards Palestinian collaborators by their countrymen: blindfolded, hog-tied, shot in the head, dragged through town, and then hung up in the public squares without anything resembling a trial. Actually, many of these individuals are pulled out of their jail cells, whose guards typically step outside to "smoke a cigarette."

As firm believer in democracy I find your tying the Israeli government to any tyrannical regime as ignorant and deplorable. As a Jew, I find your likening of Israel with Nazi actions inexcusably insulting. Of course, you are free to write your opinion here. You would be free to do so in Israel as well. Such is the luxury a democratic country affords its citizens. Do you think you would have enjoyed the same freedom in Nazi Germany or in any country outside of Israel in the Middle East? Use your tuition money and buy a clue.

Andrew Cowen '03
Joshua Gold '03

When you chose to reprint David Catrow's cartoon in *The Tech*, I imagine that you expected to be criticized, and that you put a lot of thought into satisfying yourselves that you were justified in printing it. I imagine that you decided that it was okay to print a cartoon that equates the Third Reich with Israel because you provided "balance" by also printing a cartoon that compares restrictions on Arafat's freedom of movement with those that his terror campaign imposes on Israeli civilians. "Sure, they're both controversial," you probably thought, "but they're controversial in opposite directions, so we can't be accused of bias."

I am not writing to accuse you of bias. I am writing to condemn your impropriety. The morality of Israel's choice of response to Arafat's terror campaign is controversial to many. The morality of Arafat's decision to target and kill Jewish and Arab civilians as part of his Intifada is controversial to some who are caught up in the moral equivalence game. The morality of Hitler's drive to remove Jews and other "sub-humans"

from the planet is controversial only in the most hate-filled and/or ignorant forums. Does *The Tech* want to be such a forum?

Many people, driven by a love of clever irony and moral equivocation, try to compare the mission of the Israel Defense Forces with that of the Nazis, but those who repeat this vulgar comparison do not add legitimacy to it. Instead, their resort to *reductio ad Hitlerum* contributes to the general effort to drag discourse into the amoral gutter. *The Tech* should apologize to all of its readers for stooping beneath its usual high standards of judgment.

Isaac Moses '02

A Palestinian Viewpoint

Professor Dershowitz, and the many contributors to the Friday, May 11 *Tech*, seem to believe that legitimate criticism of Israel's policies can be addressed by *ad hominem* attacks on critics, throwing around charges of anti-Semitism, or blaming these policies on Arabs. But they do not address the main issue: how can the United States' government (or the MIT or Harvard corporations) justify support for Israel, if Israel is a major violator of human rights and international treaties and resolutions?

The MIT Social Justice Cooperative is organizing an event this Tuesday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 2-105. We will be hosting Lara Sukhtian, a Palestinian-American journalist, recently returned from an interfaith pacifist delegation to Palestine. She has witnessed the latest violence first hand (including in the Jenin refugee camp), and will show pictures and answer questions about her experience. At the same event, we will hear from Amer Jubran, a local Palestinian activist.

Please come, whether you are pro-Israeli, pro-Palestinian, or just concerned about human rights, the first step in building peace is finding truth, and building understanding.

Julia Steinberger G

X-Files

What We Learned From the Unknown

Roy Esaki

On Sept. 10, 1993, a legend was born. A surfer-dude editor of *Surfing* magazine, a former Mohawk-touting nose ring-wearing punk girl, and a preppy would-be English PhD, told the story of the man, the myth, the monotone.

For nine years we joined the search for Truth, trust, extraterrestrial conspiracies, and supernatural phenomenon — and next week, we will find what we were looking for. And it will be sad.

There are people who understand The X-Files and those who do not. Like the true beauty of a Zen rock garden, appreciation cannot be adequately communicated to the uninitiated. X-Files was not about random poltergeists and monsters, or about little grey men or shady G-men. It was about probing the unknown, fighting the good fight, and expanding the realm of reality. It dealt with the epistemology of science versus faith, the psychology of obsession, and, of course, the history and fate of mankind.

What was the message of the show? Any neophyte could dutifully reply "Trust no one," "the Truth is out there," and "I want to believe." But upon a moment's reflection, it seems only too obvious that the first mantra is completely antithetical to the message of the other two: one expresses profound pessimism, the other unbribled optimism. Do we define our parameters, so we trust not in people, but in the unexplained and supernatural? We could, but that is not terribly profound.

No, the theme of X-Files was actually both pessimistic and optimistic. Fox Mulder perfectly embodied "cynical idealism" — the proper way to conduct oneself in an imperfect world. A cynical idealist has ideals; he has passions and values and knows how the world should be. But the world is thoroughly unideal. Anyone who thinks otherwise either benefits from the unideality or is ignorant or apathetic.

Faced with a world that disappoints, thwarts, and is seemingly incorrigible, the pensive idealist has no choice but to become cynical. Far from being a negative trait, cynicism is a passionate form of the healthy skepticism that drives science and the pursuit of Truth. It makes one unhappy at times, but it for the cynical idealist, the cause demands such sacrifices. Trust no one because you need to find and believe the Truth.

There is, however, a crucial exception to the cynicism, found between Mulder and Scully, and between Doggett and Rayes. They two, birds in a cage, were all they had in the pell-mell of the world. But it was enough, and that even in such an overwhelming world, two people could have such vital, inexorable trust, is a beautiful and wonderful thing. Watching the pair, we can only wistfully dream that someone we too will have someone to believe in, to entrust our lives to, to be more sure about than anything else in the world.

There are unseen forces at work, be them man-made or supernatural, and X-Files demonstrates to us the way to fight back against them. There is passion — Mulder's search for his sister, Doggett's search for his son's killer, Scully's love for her son and Mulder. There is loyalty—the fraternity of the Lone Gunmen and the loyalty between partners. (This is a virtue perhaps not well understood; malcontents think it fashionable to lament the decline of the show during recent years, or who have abandoned the show completely after Duchovny's disappearance.)

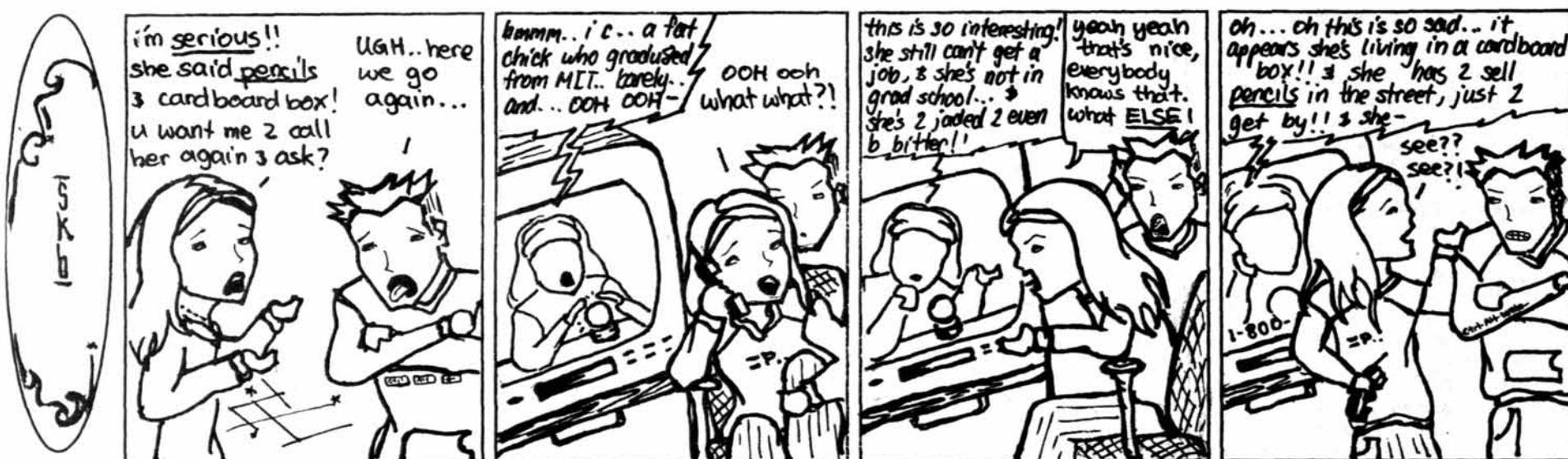
And of course, there is openness — to change and new possibilities, not only with respect to Mulder's radical theories, but also to the acceptance of Doggett who for he is, rather than as a character to replace Mulder. Last season featured Agent Harrison, whose incessant references to what "Mulder and Scully" used to do mirrored the lamentations of fans. But Doggett and Rayes proved themselves to be admirable characters to those who remained open-minded, as a true skeptic doesn't allow anything to hinder the contemplation of alternatives.

So we thus learned, and contemplated, and pondered, and discussed, and laughed, and cried. From Mulder's developing trust for Scully, through Deep Throat and CBG Spender, through Black Oil, through Scully's cancer, through Mulder and Scully's first kiss, through cornfields and bees, through William's birth, through Mulder's disappearance, through Doggett and Rayes, through the death of the Lone Gunmen, to next week's return of Mulder and the end of it all, we have been taken through a fictitious, but completely real, journey. And now, the good fight is ending. Doesn't that make you sad? It makes me sad.

the crass rat



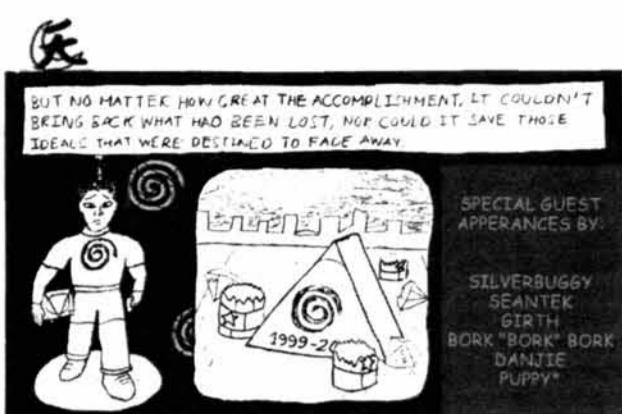
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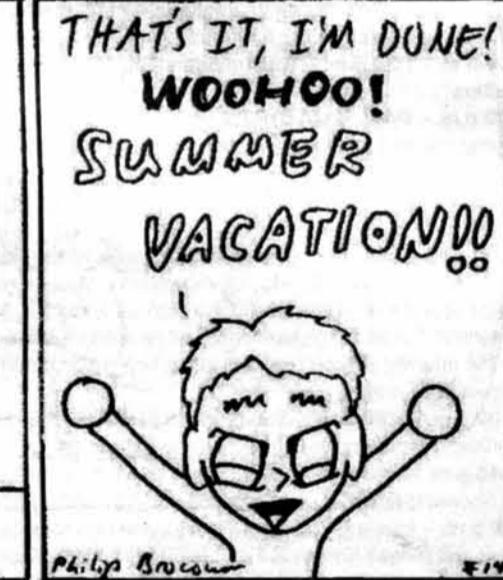
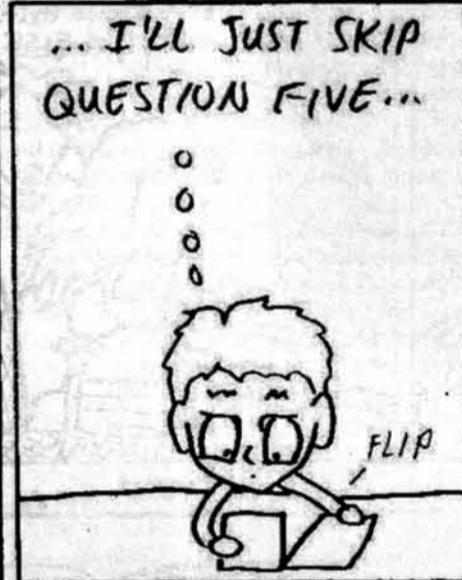
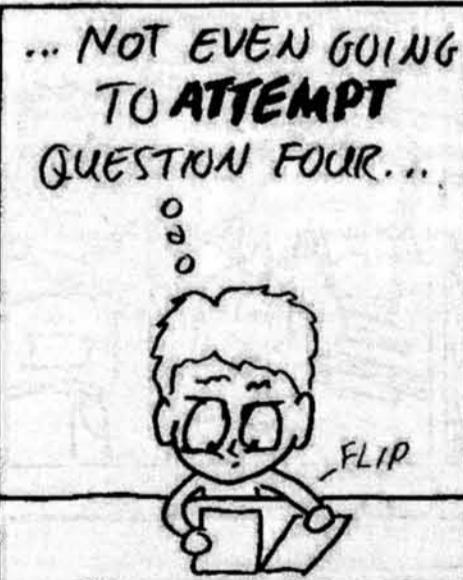
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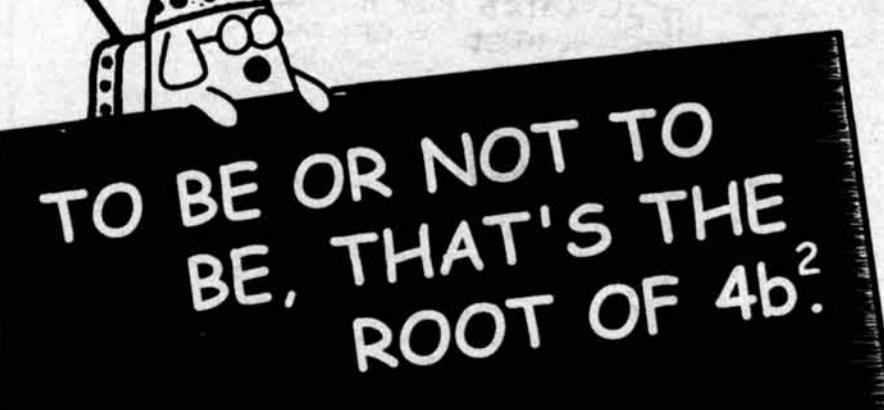
LUNAR II the final chapter...



REST BREAK



Tired of reading dumb MIT jokes?

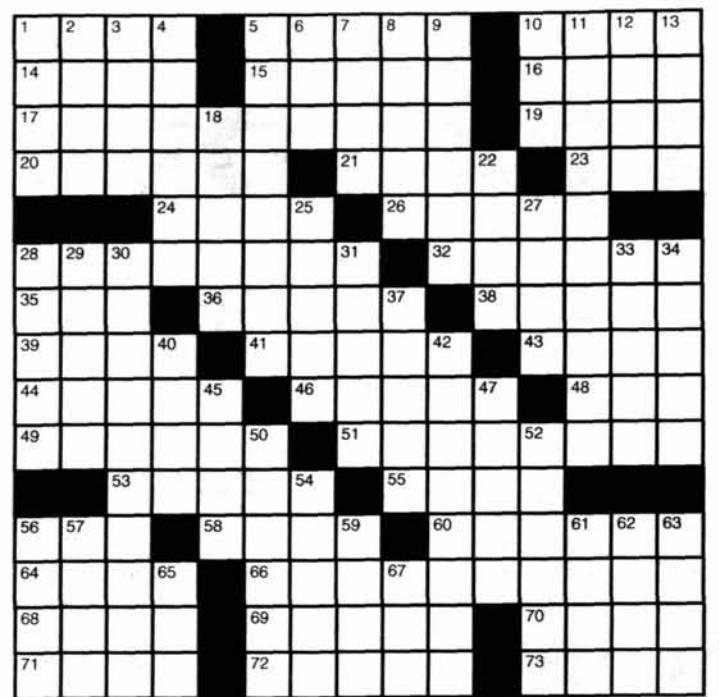


Then draw comics
for The Tech!

join@the-tech.mit.edu

ACROSS	sound	Sammy
1 Cloth line	39 Deck worker	73 Italian art patron
5 Choose by vote	41 Stowaway, e.g.	DOWN
10 Gone	43 Jai	1 Out of danger
14 Complexion woe	44 Invited	2 S. Amer. nation
15 MTV newsmen	46 Conflagrations	3 "No ifs, __ or..."
16 Grave	48 Fraction letters	4 Average
17 Overly fussy person	49 Flummox	5 Eerie
19 "Havana" star	51 Worker	6 Bud's buddy
20 Not so tough	53 Parts of gallons	7 Icelandic poem
21 Long period of time	55 Blind part	8 Yielder
23 Palmas	56 Oklahoma town	9 Experimental performance
24 Yard-sale warning	58 homo	10 Bustle
26 Full of furrows	(Behold the man!)	11 Haphazardly
28 Sports participants	60 Positive poles	12 Operatic song
32 Plucked sounds	64 Fruit's coat	13 Urges
35 Region on the SW coast of India	66 Pompous	18 Okays
36 Abandon	68 Norse god	22 Contents
38 Tremulous	69 "Sesame Street" character	25 Base of a letter
	70 Temporary funds	27 Scarlett's place
	71 Cameo stone	28 Turkish VIPs
	72 Slammin'	29 L'chaim, e.g.

30 Monkey business
31 Hawkins Day
33 Candied
34 End of a steal
37 Salon dos
40 Moore of "Ghost"
42 Broadcast again
45 Take lunch
47 Bias
50 Engravings
52 Star of "My Favorite Year"
54 Disdain
56 Woody Guthrie's boy
57 Singer Celine
59 "kleine Nachtmusik"
61 Guadalajara God
62 Coup d'
63 "Auld Lang __"
65 New Jersey fort
67 Mexico city aunt



Events Calendar

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

Tuesday, May 14

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Dreamweaver Quick Start. Dreamweaver 4 is a powerful tool for creating and managing complex web sites. This session introduces users to the Dreamweaver interface and gives a brief overview of web publishing practices at MIT. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Infant-Toddler Child Care Briefing. An introductory discussion for expectant parents and those new to parenting or child care, covering types of care, costs, finding and evaluating care, and parental leave. Pre-registration is required. Free. Room: Family Resource Center (16-151). Sponsor: Family Resource Center.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - The Alexandrian Optical Traditions in Arabic and the IOTA Project. Dibner Institute Lunchtime Colloquium. Free. Room: E56-100. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.

12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. - PAW. Speak to a Palestinian LIVE teleconferencing. Free. Room: Lobby 10. Sponsor: Arab Student Organization, PAKSMIT, Muslim students' Association. BSA.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Mellon-MIT Program on NGOs and Forced Migration. "Vanishing Security: Changing Cultural Practices among War-Displaced Southern Sudanese Women in Khartoum" and "Gender Based Violence Research Initiatives from the Field-Lessons Learned." Free. Room: CIS Conference Room - E38-615. Sponsor: Center for International Studies, Women's Studies Program.

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Neuropsychiatry of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Overview of PTSD: Role of Conditioning and Extinction, Neural Systems Involved in Fear Conditioning and Anxiety, and Neuropsychopharmacological Studies of Conditioning and Memory in PTSD. Free. Room: Wiesner Building, Bartos Theatre. Sponsor: Clinical Research Center.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - "Vanishing Security: Changing Cultural Practices among War-Displaced Southern Sudanese Women in Khartoum" and "Gender Based Violence Research Initiatives from the Field-Lessons Learned." Mellon-MIT Program on NGOs and Forced Migration. Free. Room: E38-615, CIS Conference Room. Sponsor: Center for International Studies, Women's Studies Program.

3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. - Potential and Limits of Chemistry-based Modeling of Polymeric Solids.

Chemical Engineering Departments 2002 Spring Seminar Series. Free. Room: 66-110. Sponsor: Chemical Engineering.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - MTL VLSI Seminar Series. Driving CMOS Technology toward 10nm Transistor Gate Length. Free. Room: 34-101. Sponsor: MTL VLSI Seminar.

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - GTL Seminar. A Functionally Silent Aircraft: The Quiet Lift Problem. Free. Room: 31-161. Sponsor: Gas Turbine Laboratory.

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - "Recent Developments in International Labor Migration in Indonesia." Inter-University Seminar on International Migration. (previously scheduled for May 7). Free. Room: E38-615. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Toastmasters@MIT Evening Meetings. Room 5-134. Free. Sponsor: Toastmasters.

7:00 p.m. - PAW. GAZA STRIP A documentary. Meet Producer James Longley. Free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Arab Student Organization, PAKSMIT, Muslim students' Association. BSA.

Wednesday, May 15

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - E-mail at MIT Quick Start. This quick start introduces attendees to the MIT e-mail infrastructure and authentication requirements for using e-mail at MIT. An overview on using supported e-mail applications such as Eudora 5, Netscape Messenger and MIT Webmail is presented. E-mail usage scenarios will be also presented, e.g., accessing your MIT e-mail via a commercial Internet service provider, along with recommended solutions. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Solar Power: Global Market and Industry Trends. Free. Room: E40-496. Sponsor: Laboratory for Energy and the Environment.

12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. - PAW. Speak to a Palestinian LIVE teleconferencing. Free. Room: Lobby 10. Sponsor: Arab Student Organization, PAKSMIT, Muslim students' Association. BSA.

2:00 p.m. - Imaging Vertebrate Development: From Cell Migration to Tissue Sculpting in Living Chick and Mouse Embryos. Free. Room: 34-401B. Sponsor: EECS, HST.

3:30 p.m. - MIT Faculty Meeting. Free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Faculty Chair.

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - "Public Service in a Liberalizing World." Raymond-Francois Le Bris is the former director of France's Ecole Nationale d'Administration, the institution that trains France's political and policy elite. A professor of law and economics and a former president of the University of Bretagne Occidentale, he has headed the Paris Chamber of Commerce and held several high-level administrative positions in France's Ministry of Education, free - refreshments and cookies will be served. Room: E38-615 (CIS Conference room). Sponsor: MIT France Program.

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Concept Coaching Clinic. Before you begin fund-raising, you need to check whether your concept is sound. Modeled on the Start-up Clinics, but designed for companies who are just developing their concept or idea. Two to three pre-selected companies will present their plans and ideas and engage in a dialog with a panel and the audience. This clinic will focus on whether the idea is sound, and how to begin pulling your business together. These events are limited to 35 pre-registered individuals. Forum Members \$35. Non-members \$45. \$10 Students. Room: Bldg. E51-149 (Tang Center). Sponsor: MIT Enterprise Forum of Cambridge, Inc.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Take Back the Night. Take Back the Night Rally is designed to bring awareness and empowerment to individuals and to inspire action that will bring end to sexual violence. The evening will include individuals sharing how sexual violence affects their lives and the community as a whole. Free. Room: Student Center Steps. Sponsor: Stop Our Silence.

7:00 p.m. - God of Gamblers. An off-beat comedy featuring Chow Yun-fat as a master gambler who is reduced to a child-like state after receiving a bump on the head, but who never loses his skill at cards. (Director Jing Wong, Hong Kong). Free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC, Comparative Media

Events Calendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event.

Contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar web page.

Studies.

7:00 p.m. - PAW. Frontiers of Fears and Dreams. A documentary produced by Mai Masri. Free. Room: 4-231. Sponsor: Arab Student Organization, PAKSMIT, Muslim students' Association. BSA.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Electronic Music Performance. Students in Prof Evan Ziporyn's 21M.361 (composing with computers) present their projects from the past semester in a carpeted room full of pillows. Projects were inspired from various genres: musique concrete, ambient, rhythmic exotica. Refreshments. Free. Room: World Music Room (N52-199). Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - IFILM Film Seminar. Screening of an international movie accompanied by a discussion about it. Free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, International Film Club.

Thursday, May 16

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - CIS 50th Anniversary Symposium. The Center for International Studies celebrates its 50th anniversary with a symposium on international affairs. Panel topics are: Research and the National Interest, War and Peace in the 21st Century, Human Rights and Justice, and Global Education. Speakers include corporate, government, and academic leaders from the US and abroad. Free. Room: Wong Auditorium, Tang Center. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Windows 2000 Quick Start. This session demonstrates the new features and functionalities of Windows 2000 for the desktop user. In this session, we will: tour the Start Menu enhancements summarize the differences between the new My Network Places and the previous Network Neighborhood meet the Active Desktop, Power Management, and Windows Update features see how many Control Panel functions have been consolidated see where NT profiles and Administrative Tools now reside learn how to set up a printer. We will also explain why Active Directories are not currently allowed at MIT. (System administration not covered.) Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Conversational English Class. Join us for a free conversational English class for international students and spouses at MIT. Most attendees are women able to speak freely who desire to increase their English skills. Class covers a variety of topics including American culture and holiday descriptions. Free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Weight Watchers at Work meetings at MIT. New and returning members are always welcome at this weekly meeting on weight control. Friendly, relaxed lunch hour meetings. More info: tpriest@mit.edu. Room: Building 8-219. Sponsor: Information Center.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Financial Technology Option (FTO) Information Session. Information on applying to the FTO — a Certificate Program for currently enrolled MIT graduate students. Free. Room: Bush Room, rm. 10-105. Sponsor: Financial Technology Option.

4:15 p.m. - Physics Colloquium. "Challenging Physics Problems in Biology: Noise, Self-Organization, and Pattern Formation." Free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Physics Department.

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Seminar: Lead-Burn Characteristics of a Gasoline Engine Enhanced With Hydrogen From a Plasmotron Fuel Reformer. Spring 2002 Sloan Automotive Lab/Energy Systems Seminar Series. Free. Room: 31-161. Sponsor: Sloan Automotive Laboratory.

4:15 p.m. - Building China-US Partnerships for Biomedical Research: Highlights of Possible Sino-US Biomedical Research Cooperation. Free. Room: E25-111. Sponsor: HST.

5:00 p.m. - Deadline for Arts Cross-Registration Program. Program with Massachusetts College of Art or The School of the Museum of Fine Arts for undergraduates, which supplements MIT visual arts course offerings. Enroll in selected courses at either of these nationally recognized institutions for MIT credit. All courses are pass/fail. Course listings available at the Student Services Center, 11-120, or Department of Architecture headquarters, 7-337 or Visual Arts Program, N51-315 in selected courses at either of these nationally recognized institutions for MIT credit. All courses are pass/fail. Course listings available at the Student Services Center, 11-120, or Department of Architecture headquarters, 7-337 or Visual Arts Program, N51-315. Free. Sponsor: Visual Arts Program.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Roses From Thistle Bushes: Expectations, Class, and Literacy. An inspiring talk by Dr. Patricia Silver, Professor in the Social Justice Program at UMass Amherst, who will be speaking about her experiences with developing literacy in communities marginalized by academia. Free. Room: 68-180. Sponsor: Graduate Women in Science.

7:00 p.m. - MIT Western Hemisphere Project: Open Meeting. We hold informal meetings throughout the year to discuss events in the news and to work on Project activities. If you want to just chat about these things, or if you want to join in and help organize, we'd love for you to attend. On May 16 we are holding our last meeting of the Spring semester. Agenda: (1) review of activities (IAP/Spring); and (2) planning for Summer and Fall. Free. Room: MIT 1-150. Sponsor: MIT Western Hemisphere Project.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Go Club Meeting. Come play Go with the MIT Go Club! We welcome new, beginning and experienced players. Free. Room: 1-134. Sponsor: MIT Go Club.

8:00 p.m. - The Dining Room. MIT Community Players production of play by MIT Professor Emeritus A.R. Gurney. Directed by Megan Bell. \$10, \$8 other students, MIT faculty/staff/senior citizens, \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: MIT Community Players.

8:00 p.m. - Roadkill Buffet: "Episode III: The Big Goodbye." Improv comedy. Millions have followed the saga of three young improvisors at MIT. Darth Vader wants YOU to come see their final chapter. Free. Room: Rm 35-225. Sponsor: Roadkill Buffet.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - IFILM Film Seminar. Screening of an international movie accompanied by a discussion about it. Free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: International Film Club.

9:00 p.m. - Benefit Concert for Argentina. Music by Piazzolla performed by members of the MIT Symphony and Chamber Orchestras (Dante Anzolini, conductor) with Raul Jaurena, bandoneon and Marga Mitchell, vocalist. Tax deductible admission; all proceeds for Hospital Piero and Hospital de Nios. \$20, \$5 students. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



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THE ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

MITSO Spring Concert

Brilliant Musical Fireflies

By Bogdan Fedele

STAFF WRITER

MIT Symphony Orchestra
Kresge Auditorium
May 11, 2002

Last Saturday, MITSO, directed by Dante Anzolini in his farewell performance, gave its second spring concert. The program included two fairly recent pieces, Sánchez-Gutiérrez's *Afterlight* and Penderecki's *Concerto for Viola and Orchestra* (featuring violist Marcus Thompson, professor of music at MIT), and the well-established Mahler's *Symphony No. 1*. The brilliant and lively performance of MITSO created a remarkable evening,



DAN BERSAK—THE TECH

Meredith Glinka '04 checks her music before Saturday's MITSO concert.

delighting the enthusiastic audience gathered in Kresge auditorium.

Afterlight is one of the latest pieces of Carlos Sánchez-Gutiérrez, a modern composer originating from Mexico. The piece features very abstract yet descriptive music, inspired by a vivid narrative (by Carlos Henriquez) of a scene in which thousands of fireflies "dance" around the site of a tragic historical event. In the narrative, the fireflies are likened to the souls of the dead. *Afterlight* is the musical picture of that particular scene, suggesting the randomness of the flight of the fireflies with unpredictable rhythmic changes, sudden accents and dynamic contrasts.

MITSO's performance was extremely expressive, evoking the dance of the fireflies through nicely shaped phrases and well-balanced *tutti*. Remarkable were the virtuosic passages played by the first violin (Romy Shioda G), xylophone (Manu Sridharan G), and piano (Yukiko Ueno '98) that intensified the sensation of an agitated, yet organized swarm of insects. I truly enjoyed MITSO's rendition of this non-conformist piece. The composer, present in the audience, was also enchanted, and thanked director Dante Anzolini and MITSO while the audience frantically applauded all of them.

Krzysztof Penderecki's *Concerto for Viola and Orchestra*, written in 1983, is a piece that misleads through its title. It features a viola soloist, who plays against the full orchestra, but that's about all it has in common with the classical concerto. The piece unfolds as one long circular movement that offers little variation in the mood it creates. The very dry and chromatic treatment of the musical material makes expressivity an even bigger challenge for the performers. Yet, soloist Thompson delivered a remarkable, heart-felt viola solo. A careful intonation highlighted the viola's beautiful timbre, which was rather hoarse and meditative in the low registers, yet outspoken and vibrant in the higher ones. Thompson's brilliant technique made the piece flow naturally in its dense middle section. The orchestra played a more



DAN BERSAK—THE TECH

Professor of Music and Theater Arts Marcus Thompson accepts flowers after soloing in the Penderecki *Viola Concerto* with MITSO Saturday.

reserved role, yet took advantage of the short *tutti* episode to deliver a well-articulated, full sonority. The piece was a fulfilling experience, not only for the performers, but the audience as well. Thompson's vibrant performance, assisted by a well-conducted orchestra, made this very modern piece extremely enjoyable.

Mahler's symphonic works need little introduction, given their impact on the symphonic genre. His symphonies are milestones that require a great deal of maturity from the orchestras performing them. MITSO showed its maturity and high caliber, delivering a vibrant performance of Mahler's *Symphony No. 1 in D major*. Although the introduction seemed hesitant, in the low registers, it gained momentum and acquired a perfect balance maintained throughout the *allegro*.

The intonation of the main theme was very beautiful and expressive. The second movement featured richer orchestrations, but never sounded too harsh. The folk-dance character of the movement was conveyed in both in the more

agitated, louder *scherzo* and in the more lyrical *trio*. The mocking atmosphere of the third movement came out descriptive and lively. The carefully intonated *Frère Jacques* on solo double bass (Erin K. Mathewson '05) set the right balance between comedy and tragedy at the beginning of the movement. The orchestral build-up that followed was descriptive and expressive. Finally, the dramatic explosion of the finale sounded indeed *molto appassionato*. A fiery string section delivered a coherent, rapid accompaniment above which the brass section, with a full, well-intonated sound, played the thematic material. In particular, the strenuous, climactic ending of the symphony showed a good cohesion of the orchestra, which produced a strong, yet beautifully rounded sonority.

Overall, MITSO's concert from last Saturday was a delightful experience, showing the orchestra's potential in dealing with both very modern writings, as well as the classics, under the careful yet demanding leadership of the departing conductor Anzolini.

THEATER REVIEW

Bohemian Rhapsody

Boston Lyric Opera's 'La bohème'

By Bence Olveczky

STAFF WRITER

Bohemian Rhapsody
Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre
May 14 & 17, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets \$31-\$151. Student rush tickets (50 percent discount) available two hours prior to performance.

In *La Vie de Bohème*, the Finnish cult film from 1993, one of the protagonists wryly announces that "Opera is dead." Being a character in a film based on a Puccini opera, he should know. This ancient art form, goes the argument, caters to pompous, rich people, who in their impotent affluence indulge in theatrical fantasies about true, unattainable love. Opera is hardly a relevant forum for modern-day bohemians, whether in Paris or Cambridge. When, you might ask, was the last time somebody wrote an opera about a bunch of poor, but free-spirited guys who live it up in an apartment they can't afford, while waiting for a sexy lady to knock on their door? Well, it was in the late 19th century, and the opera, of course, was "La bohème."

Now Boston Lyric Opera revives this popular piece yet again, and treats it with respect, risking nothing, alienating nobody. The conventional staging mines Puccini's opus for all its charm (there's plenty), and the result is an entertaining, if not exhilarating, evening of feel-good, sappy opera.

The cast is even and solid throughout, and what it lacks in star power it makes up for in enthusiasm. The four *bon vivant* bohemians, huddling in their cold, damp Parisian apartment, bring to life a feeling of camaraderie and friendship that's easy to empathize and sympathize with. Best of the lot is Frank Hernandez, whose memorable rendition of Marcello, the carefree painter, is helped by a sturdy and commanding bass. His jovial but sometimes brash manners make for good comedy, as does Angela Turner Wilson's slutty rendition of his love interest, Musette. Wilson's high-pitched soprano is a good match for the role, effectively conveying Musette's frivolous character.

Somewhat less convincing is Nicole Folland as Mimi,



(Left to right) Vitali Rozynko, Branch Fields, David Kravitz, Frank Hernandez, and Stephen Mark Brown star in Boston Lyric Opera's *La bohème* at the Shubert Theater May 14 and 17.

the "sexy lady," who just happens to knock on the bachelors' door asking for a light to light her candle (literally and metaphorically). While Folland's voice carries the role well, her acting is a little lacking. Mimi and the poet Rodolfo (tenor Stephen Mark Brown) are supposed to hit it off on the spot, but that instant attraction is a hard sell given the lack of any true affectionate rapport between the two. Still, the finale, with Mimi slowly dying in Bohemian company, is as moving as ever.

Elchanah Pulitzer's (her family founded the famous prize) staging is basic and simple, and she cleverly lets the production roll without too many theatrical effects mining its way. This hands-off approach nicely aids the music and

the story, and it works well in the large part because of Erhard Rom's spare, but fitting stage design. Many productions of "La bohème" have lavish and colorful sets, contrary to the spirit of an opera about poor and hungry artists. Rom's stage set uses simple architectural elements (a brick wall, glowing windows, a bed etc.) and subtle lighting effects to create a spartan, but convivial atmosphere that suits the opera well.

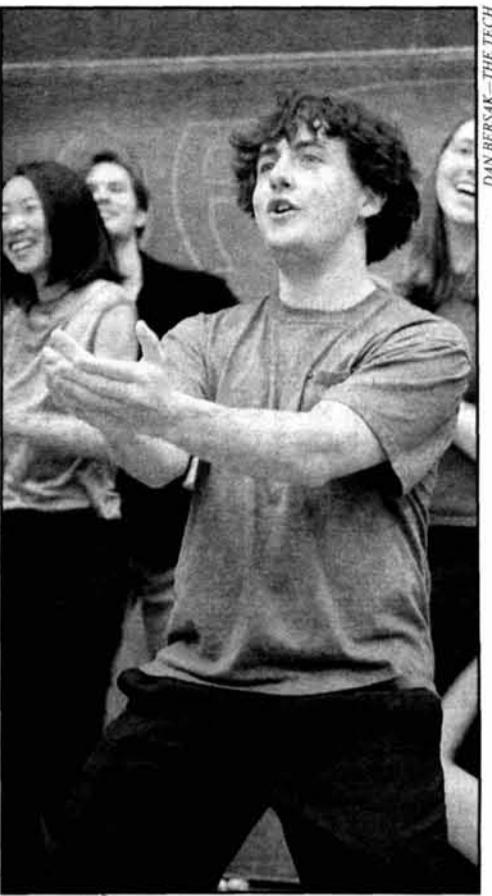
To conclude its 25th anniversary season, the Boston Lyric Opera has created a barebones but beautiful production of "La bohème" that succeeds in translating the timeless appeal of Puccini's masterpiece, while at the same time showing us that opera is anything but dead.

Resonance



DONG WANG

TOP: Resonance's Matthew Leal '04, Bo Zhao '04, Stephen Lee '05, Julia Patriarco '05, and Sara Elice G.



DAN BERSAK—THE TECH

RIGHT: Jamie Clark G sings "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do" during Friday night's Resonance concert. Resonance performed with the Dartmouth Subtleties and Penn Six-5000 in 54-100.

FILM REVIEW★★★

The Sum of All Fears

The Return of Jack Ryan

By Patrick Hereford

STAFF WRITER

Written by Tom Clancy and Paul Attanasio
Directed by Phil Alden Robinson
Starring Ben Affleck and Morgan Freeman
Rated R
Opens May 31.

The Sum of All Fears is a much-anticipated movie for Clancy fans all over the world. Anyone who knows Clancy and his books knows about the character Jack Ryan from The Hunt for Red October, Patriot Games, The Sum of All Fears, and Clear and Present Danger. Picking the perfect Jack Ryan is no easy task. He must fit so many different profiles, be a man of intelligence and charm, and perhaps good-looking. Clancy chose Alec Baldwin for The Hunt for Red October, Harrison Ford for Clear and Present Danger and Patriot Games, and Ben Affleck for The Sum of All Fears.

Affleck said in a conference call with The Tech that he spent time at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia to prepare for the role. He also interviewed and spent time with real Russian analysts. "Most people at the CIA aren't spies. They're individuals writing documents and postulating ideas," Affleck said. He also spent a majority of the time talking to and learning from

his co-star Morgan Freeman. "When I signed on to do this role, I was delighted to be playing opposite Morgan. He's been a hero of mine for years." When The Tech asked him why he took the role of Jack Ryan, Affleck said, "I had a lot of feelings about the movie [because I am a huge Clancy fan]. It was a really big deal for me. It's not your everyday movie. The Jack Ryan character is really appealing. I think getting to play Jack Ryan is like playing Hamlet. Everyone wants to play Hamlet."

The movie begins with William Cabot (Freeman) searching for Jack Ryan because of an essay which describes in great detail the life of president Nemerov (Ciar N. Hinds). Cabot takes Ryan to Russia to find out some detail

about the Nemerov presidency. Nemerov claims to have bombed a small country to make the world believe he is a "hardliner."

While in Russia, Ryan discovers that three Russian scientists are missing from the nuclear development sector. These scientists are the key to making a nuclear bomb successful. Cabot tells Ryan to go to Russia again with John Clark (Liev Schreiber) to find out where these three scientists are located and what are they doing. After successfully infiltrating the Russian camp, Clark discovers that all three scientists are dead. The two spies rush back to the United States to report their findings to Cabot. When Ryan gets a signal, he calls Cabot and tells him the facts: there is a nuclear bomb somewhere in Baltimore and he must move the President as soon as possible. The devastating visuals and sounds of the ensuing explosion scene are so perfect the entire audience feels the shock and falls silent.

Not much more can be said without ruining the various surprises Clancy has in store for the audience. Each Jack Ryan movie is different from the others not because of the cast or because of the way the characters are portrayed, but because of the thought processes for different Jack Ryans. Affleck is best able to portray Jack Ryan because of his unique way of interacting with the other characters.

In a nod toward the post-Sept. 11 status of global politics, the production team replaces the Arab terrorists in Clancy's novel with Neo-Fascists. They also change Jack Ryan from a husband to a bachelor. Minor changes aside, The Sum of All Fears is a thrilling action film that no Clancy fan should pass up.

Ben Affleck as Jack Ryan and Morgan Freeman as Bill Cabot in *The Sum of All Fears*, in theaters May 31.



FLORA AMWANI—THE TECH

Cross Products

Joyce C. Lin '01 sings the lead during the Cross Products spring concert Saturday. The Cross Products performed in 10-250 with Dartmouth's X.ado and Wellesley's Awaken the Dawn.

FILM REVIEW★★1/2

Spiderman

A Sticky Show Of Patriotism

By Daniel Dock

Spiderman

Written by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko

Directed by Sam Raimi

Starring Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, Willem Dafoe, James Franco, Cliff Robertson

Rated PG-13

Peter Parker, played by an effeminate Tobey Maguire, is the social outcast of his high school. The establishing shot of the film consists of Parker chasing the school bus that refuses to stop for him — much to the delight of everyone in the bus, including the driver. The film progresses quite rapidly as the character Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst), or MJ as she is called in the film, is introduced as Parker's life-long love, even though Parker has never really talked to her.

Parker is bitten by a spider genetically altered with "Transfer RNA" and decides to sleep off the insidious bite, refusing to eat the meal his Aunt May (Rosemary Harris) had prepared and causing his Uncle Ben (Cliff Robertson) worry. Coincidentally, that same night, Norman Osborne (Willem Dafoe), the father of Parker's only friend, exposes himself to his own experimental gas that gives him superhuman abilities and drives him insane.

Parker awakes the next day with bulging muscles, perfect vision, and sticky hands. Not worried by his metamorphosis, he trots off to school, where uses his newly acquired abilities to thwart the school bully, who happens to be MJ's boyfriend. Parker realizes the rest of his abilities — wall climbing, web slinging, and spider sense — to great delight.

A tragedy brings about Uncle Ben's death and Parker, feeling responsible, begins his crusade against crime as Spiderman. About the same time, Norman Osborne, now known as the Green Goblin, begins his reign of terror. The struggle between Spiderman and the Green Goblin is a stalemate until Thanksgiving dinner, where Norman Osborne notices something that puts Parker — and everyone he loves — in danger.

The film succeeds in portraying the development of Spiderman's abilities, but unrealistic CG sequences cause the viewer to lose interest. Despite the film's best efforts it never seems that Spiderman is contending with the force of gravity — exaggerated in a scene in which Spiderman must choose between saving a trolley car full of children or MJ. The live-action scenes with the Green Goblin are reminiscent of old Ultraman episodes and almost laughable. Even after Parker's transformation into Spiderman, he lacks enough masculinity to be considered a hero, illustrating a sort of impotence shared by many protagonists of late films noir — something that should not be true of any superhero.

Despite the film's best efforts to paint MJ in a good light, she comes off as nothing but shallow, which may be a by-product of Dunst's own sense of self-satisfaction throughout the film. This film promises to be as memorable as the first Superman movie and perhaps one day will be played on TNT during Patriot's Day weekend.

Quite frankly the director, Sam Raimi, did his job well as a craftsman of this film. Despite an opening reminiscent of Tim Burton's opening to Batman, the film proves to be less memorable than Batman because there was adequate acting and little substance.

Perhaps the film's worst additions were the obligatory displays of patriotism. The film ends with Spiderman on a flagpole high atop a New York skyscraper. In another scene the people of New York stand by Spiderman and exclaim, "If you mess with one of us, you mess with all of us." Perhaps former Mayor Giuliani will be nominated for an Academy Award.

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CONCERT REVIEW

Jeremiah Freed

Cozy, but Lacking Maturity

By Andrew Selbst

Jeremiah Freed
The Middle East Restaurant and Nightclub
May 8, 2002

The Middle East is a small venue, fitting 200 to 300 people in the basement under their restaurant. The acoustics of the setup create a large difference in sound quality in the different parts of the room, the front row being quite bad. However, the relatively small room manages to serve as a nice setting for rock concerts. One of the first things Jeremiah Freed frontman Joe Smith said to the crowd was, in fact, a comment about just this, bringing it to the audience's attention. He said "We're back in Boston for a nice, intimate show, just like we like 'em."

The opening band, Marwood, comes from New York City and also has one album out. Their music has very nice contrasts. All the melodies, both sung and played, seem laid-back and graceful, while the actual sounds of the guitars are very heavily distorted, almost as if they were hippies with an attitude. That impression also comes from the way they carry themselves and dress when they play. Their onstage presence could be described as Nirvana without the flannel. Their music has a style similar to Jeremiah Freed's, a bright, hard rock with its own unique flavor. It wouldn't be surprising to hear these guys following Jeremiah Freed on radio stations sometime soon.

The main act opened with "Stranded," the first song on Jeremiah Freed's self-titled album. This was a great choice for an opener, and it did exactly what an opening song should. The song started off at a normal pace, and suddenly, in the middle, the energy levels in the song and the room began to soar, readying the crowd for the rest of the show.



Jeremiah Freed played the Middle East on May 8.

THEATER REVIEW

Copenhagen

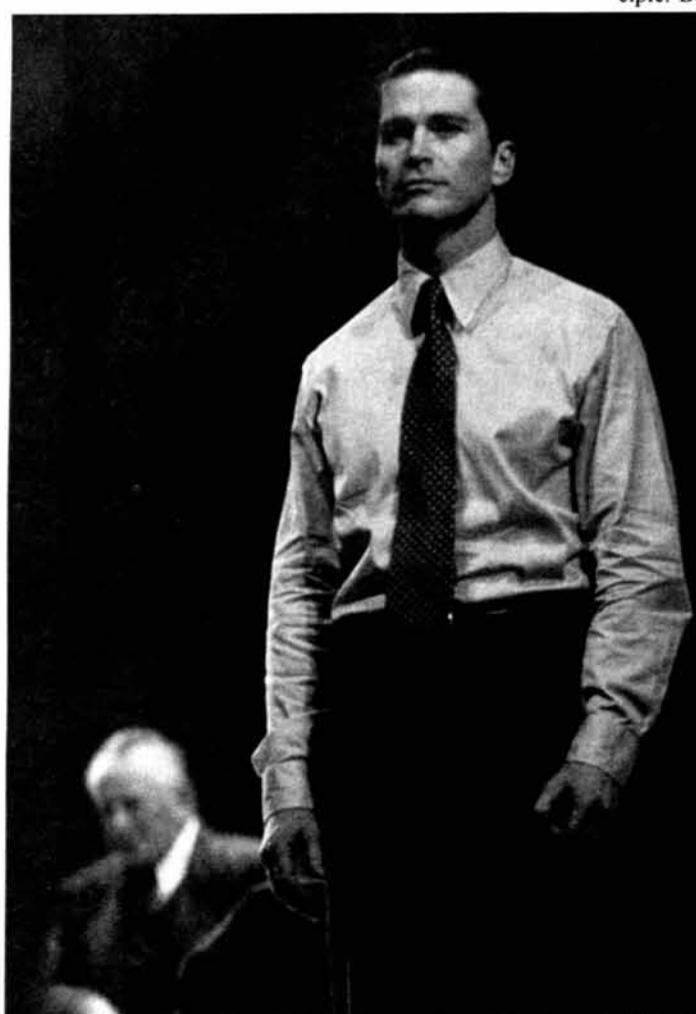
Heisenberg's False Uncertainty About Calculus

By Dan Tortorice

STAFF WRITER
Copenhagen
Colonial Theater
May 14-19, 8 p.m. Tue-Sat, 2 p.m.
Sat-Sun, 7:30 Sun
Written by Michael Frayn
With Len Cariou, Mariette Hartley, and Hank Stratton

Copenhagen, the 2000 Tony Award-winning play, is Michael Frayn's look at the well-known, poorly understood meeting between the eminent physicists Werner Heisenberg, a German, and Niels Bohr, a Dane, in German-occupied Denmark during World War II. No one, not even Heisenberg nor Bohr, recalls what exactly happened the evening of that meeting. But what is known is that meeting marked the end of the great friendship and partnership between Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg.

Frayn's recreation brings Bohr, Heisenberg and Bohr's wife Margrethe back together again, after they have died, to try one more time to make sense of that evening. They recreate the conversation between Bohr and Heisenberg, spinning out many possible scenarios that all try to answer the question: why did Heisenberg come to Copenhagen? The play suggests that he wanted to warn Bohr of the German program, find out about the Allied program, show off Germany's power, obtain absolution, or even recruit Bohr to work on the bomb. Fray mixes these different scenarios and creates an air of uncertainty. The minimalist set, just three actors and three chairs in an indeterminate space, adds to this effect. We are then taken on a quest to discover why Heisenberg



Hank Stratton and Len Cariou in Copenhagen at the Colonial Theater May 14-19.

went to Copenhagen and, in the end, are told that it can't be known.

While the premise of the play is striking, and perhaps enough to sustain one's interest through the work, the play and the production miss a crucial element. The characters are simply implausible to anyone who has ever

studied science at an advanced level (I mean the level of an MIT student; I haven't done more than 8.02). Frayn spins wonderfully poetic metaphors between principles of physics, most notably Heisenberg's uncertainty principle and Bohr's complementarity principle. But, since he needs to make it accessible to his audience, the principles must be discussed on a superficial level.

You've probably noticed that when a writer wants to make a character sound intelligent he will have the character utter some phrase littered with mathematical buzzwords like, "I calculated the matrix covariance differential." I imagine most MIT students groan when they hear statements like this. That's what *Copenhagen* was for me: two hours of almost continuous groaning. Not that Frayn often uses buzzwords; he is more sophisticated than that. However when the physics is discussed it is emphasized so much that it feels fake, just like "the matrix covariance differential."

But what makes this problem even worse is the actors' overexcitement when they discuss these principles of physics, since it's tough to imagine an actual physicist would get so worked up. In one line, Heisenberg, played by Hank Stratton, mentions his initial difficulty with "matrix calculus." He seems amazed by the words, as if he were uttering the name of a deity. But I imagine a physicist, especially Heisenberg, whom the play makes clear worked extensively with matrix calculus, wouldn't think it was that big a deal. Even worse, Heisenberg is wearing a well-tailored green suit and his hair is slicked back; he looks more like he belongs on Wall St. than in a university lecture hall.

By many accounts, *Copenhagen* is an excellent play. Even some other MIT students who saw it have liked it. But be warned that if you go, you risk feeling as if you are sitting through a reading of *Science for Dummies* spliced with a bit of interesting philosophy.

FILM REVIEW ★

Insomnia

Just Try to Keep Your Eyes Open

By Chloe Tergiman

Directed by Chris Nolan
Written by Nikolaj Frobenius
and Erik Skjoldbjærg
Starring: Al Pacino, Robin Williams, Hillary Swank
Rated R

Unlike *Memento*, in which Chris Nolan showed talent and originality, *Insomnia* is a mainstream movie that doesn't keep to its promises. This movie won't make you think, won't surprise you, and won't even keep your eyes open for two hours.

Insomnia follows Will Dorner (Al Pacino), an LAPD officer sent to help out in a murder case in the small town of Nightmute, Alaska, where daylight lasts 24 hours. Dorner arrives with his partner Hap (Martin Donovan) to give a hand to the local police. A young girl has been murdered and her body has been found in a garbage bag in a dump. There are no suspects and no witnesses. It's a good thing LAPD sent Zorro and his partner to help out: it takes an experienced policeman to think of questioning the boyfriend Randy (Jonathan Jackson), and the best friend of the victim. Turns out she was seeing another man! Maybe he's got something to do with the murder!

In an attempt to catch the suspect, Dorner accidentally shoots and kills his own partner, but attributes the murder to the suspect they were chasing. Good cop turns bad. Ellie Burr (Hillary Swank), a bright, naive, local police-woman, is assigned to write the report on Hap's death. We immediately suspect she will discover the truth. Dorner, suffering from insomnia, begins to have trouble concentrating. Is it his conscience? The constant daylight? Both?

On the second day, the killer calls Dorner in his hotel room. The cat has become the mouse. In their conversation, Finch offers Dorner a deal: "If you don't tell I killed her, I won't tell you killed him." Bad cop turns worse. Meanwhile, Burr finds inconsistencies in Dorner's account of his partner's death. Surprise, surprise.

The rest of the movie can be summarized in a few sentences: Dorner can't sleep. Dorner tries to do good through evil. Boyfriend is framed. Dorner can't sleep. Dorner tries to find a way to fix his injustice against the boyfriend. Dorner can't sleep. Dorner tries to catch Finch. Dorner still can't sleep. Did I mention that Dorner can't sleep?

The only realistic element in the movie is the portrait of insomnia. The sleep-deprived Al Pacino is grand. His difficulty concentrating, his drowsiness, and the battle to keep his eyes open while driving are all well-filmed.

Pacino's character in the movie lacks depth. Although our judgment of him changes through the movie, this change occurs not through his complexity but through a plot that becomes more grotesque the further we get into the movie. Even face-to-face conversations between Al Pacino and Robin Williams don't compensate for the mediocrity of the plot.

This psychological thriller is neither psychological nor a thriller. Indeed, the attempt to use insomnia as a psychological element is far from successful. Knowing all the different facets of the characters before the halfway point, the movie kills the thriller aspect of this movie. We know who killed whom, where and how. The investigation that leads to Finch, the setup to catch him, the interactions between Dorner and Finch, and the details of the different deaths (Hap's and the young girl's) are just not interesting.

Robin Williams' character in the movie isn't as slick or troubled as he could have been. He simply doesn't offer the viewer the complexity other cold, shrewd killers do, like Hannibal in *The Silence of the Lambs*. Finch is too predictable in his actions.

In a movie with actors like Al Pacino and Robin Williams, one would expect to see a plot and screenplay that matches their talent. In *Memento*, the psychological aspect of the characters, a real plot, and an unexpected end are what made that movie excellent. Unfortunately, the characters here are underdeveloped and not convincing. In *Insomnia*, the psychological element that was put forward in the previews is all but absent. There are no moral questions, no intrigue, no surprises, nothing. The visual style has nothing distinct. Don't go see *Insomnia*, go to bed instead.

INTERVIEW

Mementos Of Chris Nolan

'Insomnia' Director on Blue Fingernails

By Chloe Tergman

Chris Nolan, a 31-year-old English director, broke into the public eye with the movie *Memento*. He was recently in Boston to promote his new film *Insomnia*, to be released on the 24th of May. Among the newspapers he agreed to talk to was *The Tech*, and he answered all questions with kindness, simplicity and humor.

The Tech: After *Memento*'s complicated plot, do you not think that the public that got to know you thanks to *Memento* will not be disappointed with the simplicity of *Insomnia*'s plot?

Chris Nolan: *Insomnia* is much more simple and linear in chronology than was *Memento*. In *Memento* there were a lot of debate questions around the plot, and much less on the thematic questions. I was interested in making a plot much more transparent in its structure so that the thematic concerns would be much more directly approached; ambiguity and questions at the end are much more available and approachable. In *Memento* there was a constant manipulating of the audience. This time I wanted something where that was more in the background.

TT: Why were Al Pacino's nails blue?

CN: It was cold, and in some scenes, they weren't his hands.

TT: What?

CN: There's a mixture, because I do a lot of inserts.

TT: What aspect of your directing do actors like?

CN: Actors like my directing because I don't use the monitor and [I] sit by the camera and use my eyes. Overall, I think they enjoy working with me, although they're good actors, so I don't really know! But seriously, I spend a lot more time with the main actors and so some actors that play small roles might be frustrated because I concentrate much more on the main actors. I like to think that I'm not worse than anyone else in that respect.

TT: Are you thinking of doing another movie in England?

CN: I could if there were a project that I was interested in. I don't see a huge difference between European and American films. Hollywood has established itself as the main and most successful conduit for broad storytelling, but Europeans also produce Hollywood-type movies.

TT: Are you critic of Hollywood-type movies?

CN: There are definitely an awful lot of banal films that come of the system. But the most successful ones are drawn from this system, and these ones will be remembered and have a big resonance among the audience. Although it does produce a lot of crap just to make money, you can make a good studio film from Hollywood.



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RESTAURANT REVIEW

Veggie Planet

Serving Up Great Food Very Slowly

By Sonja A. Sharpe

STAFF WRITER

Veggie Planet (at Club Passim)

47 Palmer Street

Harvard Square

Cambridge, MA

617-661-1513

Mon-Sat 11:30-10:30, Sunday 10 to 10,

Sunday Brunch 10-3:30

Brunch \$5.95-\$9.95, Pizza \$10

Veggie Planet is a relatively new restaurant in Harvard Square that caters to vegetarians and vegans. The restaurant, owned by Didi Emmons, focuses mostly on putting ethnic food on flat bread to create delicious and unique pizzas, which constitute the bulk of the menu. Veggie Planet also promotes the concept of socially responsible business practices. For example, the pizza dough used at the restaurant is produced by Haley House, a homeless services provider in the South End; the produce is 70 percent locally grown, with the organic tofu made in Jamaica Plain.

Veggie Planet has long been serving the best vegetarian and vegan pizzas in town, but the small restaurant only recently started serving brunch every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Emmons and her staff created a menu that departs from the "ethnic food on pizza" concept to include more breakfast foods for Sunday's brunch menu, taking pizza dough and using it for everything from sticky buns to cinnamon toast to eggs in a box. The results are quite successful.

On a recent trip to Veggie Planet, we arrived for brunch at around noon on Sunday. After waiting at our little table for half an hour, our waitress finally came over and took our order. We selected pecan sticky buns, made with fresh organic pizza dough; vegan cranberry coffee cake; homefry heaven, a scramble of crispy new potatoes, spinach and silken tofu topped with salsa; and the pizza of the day, which was topped with potatoes, caramelized onions, spinach and tofu ricotta cheese. Tofu ricotta can actually be substituted on any pizza that uses a real cheese as one of the toppings. This makes it extraordinarily easy for vegans to find a wide range of menu options here.

The atmosphere at Veggie Planet can best be described as Bohemian. The restaurant is very bright, even though it is located in a basement, and boasts cheerfully colored walls

displaying artwork from local artists. The artwork changes periodically and all of it is for sale. Aside from all the colorful paint, though, very little seems to have been spent on décor, and the feel of the place is more that of a colorful cafeteria than a restaurant. The cafeteria feeling is not helped by the fact that the restaurant is overcrowded with small, cafeteria-style tables. We couldn't even use two of the chairs at our table because they were squeezed in too close to the table next to us.

Since the restaurant is located at Club Passim, there is a raised stage on one end, which Veggie Planet uses to provide live jazz music during Sunday brunch. In keeping with the Bohemian theme, though, the jazz is good, but low key. The jazz players themselves were not a professional jazz group at all, but seemed instead to be a married couple in their 50s who simply enjoyed strumming a guitar and singing. Still, they were pretty good, and the music did make the restaurant seem less like a cafeteria.

The service at Veggie Planet is horribly slow, however. Even though the restaurant advertises that their pizzas are cooked in less than two minutes in an ecological, one-of-a-kind oven, we had to wait more than half an hour for our food to arrive. Although this was only partly the fault of our waitress, since the place was definitely understaffed and she was swamped with customers, she didn't think at all to bring out the coffee cake and the sticky bun first, but waited until the pizza and homefries were done and then brought it all out together. Needless to say, we were starving by the time we finally got our food.

The beverage service was even worse. The organic coffee is serve-yourself, but I had to wait until almost the end of my meal before my orange juice finally arrived. However, it was fresh-squeezed, very refreshing and somehow worth the wait. In fact, that's true of all the food at Veggie Planet. Slow as the service was, the quality of the food honestly did make up for it. The sticky buns were soft, definitely sticky, and wonderfully sweet and filling. The cranberry coffee cake was moist and delicious. The homefries were a little bland, but otherwise tasty, and the pizza was fabulous, slightly spiced and wonderfully seasoned. Potatoes on pizza is a surprisingly delicious meal, and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

The main reason to eat at Veggie Planet is its fantastically delicious food, particularly the unique pizzas and the pastry items. It's also nice to know that you are patronizing a restaurant that supports the community and operates with a good social conscience. Expect to wait a while for your food, though, and to be uninspired by the décor, but if you don't mind those aspects of the restaurant, you will definitely enjoy Sunday brunch at Veggie Planet. The food is absolutely worth it, and the jazz is pretty good, too.

MIT Department of FACILITIES CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Stata Center

Excavation expansion for the installation of chilled water lines will begin later this month. Signage will be installed to direct pedestrian traffic from the east parking areas. The pedestrian path that leads from the underpass at Building 26 and heads east around the Stata trailer is now closed to allow for crane access to the area.

Simmons Hall

Installation of life safety equipment, including fire detection systems, is underway.

Zesiger Sports & Fitness Center

Installation of the limestone/granite cladding on the first floor is nearing completion. Construction of the squash courts is 75% complete. Ceramic tile work continues at the swimming pools.

Dreyfus Chemistry Building

Installation of mechanical, electrical, and piping systems continues on all floors. Moving of faculty into new lab spaces is underway.

70 Pacific Street

Interior drywalling, painting, floor tiling, and installation of bathroom finishes continue.

Vassar St. Utilities

Installation of chilled water, fire protection, steam, telecommunication, and electric ductbanks is progressing behind Buildings 44, 45, and through the 45 parking lot toward the Stata site. Sewer replacement work continues on Vassar St. from Building 42, heading west. Traffic flow and parking will be affected near the work zone.

For information on MIT's building program, see <http://web.mit.edu/evolving>. This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities.

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THE ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

Bops With Joe Lovano

MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble

By Allison Lewis

STAFF WRITER

MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble

Kresge Auditorium

May 10, 8:00 pm

World-renowned jazz saxophonist Joe Lovano took the stage with the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble and wowed the crowd with charm and sax. Bearded and suave in his suit and silver jacket, Lovano plays like he looks — big and stylish.

The first couple of tunes, both written by Lovano, featured FJE's rhythm section — bass and drums — behind Lovano, soulful, boppy, and free on tenor sax. In the fast and furious "Flights of Fancy," drummer Nathan Fitzgerald set up a solid beat that he kept throughout the night. Slowing down for "Sanctuary Park," Thomas A. Lada G danced with his bass in a convincing solo. Joe Lovano, in the forefront, captured the audience with his alternately whining and exploding tenor sax.

Mark Harvey, lecturer in music, trumpeter, and founder of the Aardvark Jazz Orchestra, composed and wildly conducted the world premiere of "Saxophrenia," an eclectic, free-spirited tune that relies on the musicians' own interpretation and improvisation. The FJE saxophone section and Lovano (on soprano sax) began by blowing through their horns as if they were trying to empty their spit. One by one, they evolved into chaotic quacks, pops, squeaks, burps, and swirls. Maggie V. Stringfellow '03, a commanding presence in black boots, laid down a deep and solid sound on baritone sax. Alex M. Mekelburg '04, his face the shade of a strawberry, worked and revved his tenor sax like a slick machine.

"You Don't Know What Love Is" featured Jorge Padilla '05, brilliant and shining on flugel horn, and Chris Rakowski '02 amazing as always on alto sax. Lovano and remarkable guest pianist Ran Blake (from New England Conservatory) ended the first half quietly with David Raksin's "Laura," a beautiful, romantic duet.

The FJE banged into the second half with some well-played nonet pieces (for four saxophones, trombone, trumpet, piano, drums, bass). In "On a Misty Night," written by Tad Dameron and recorded on Lovano's album *52nd Street Themes*, Rakowski's saxophone sang out simply and melodically, and Kevin T. Chen '05 raced, jingled, and swung on piano. The highly flammable Mekelburg absolutely caught fire in "Good Bait," also by Dameron. I was less impressed with "Star Dust;" it's hard to top a Louis Armstrong interpretation.

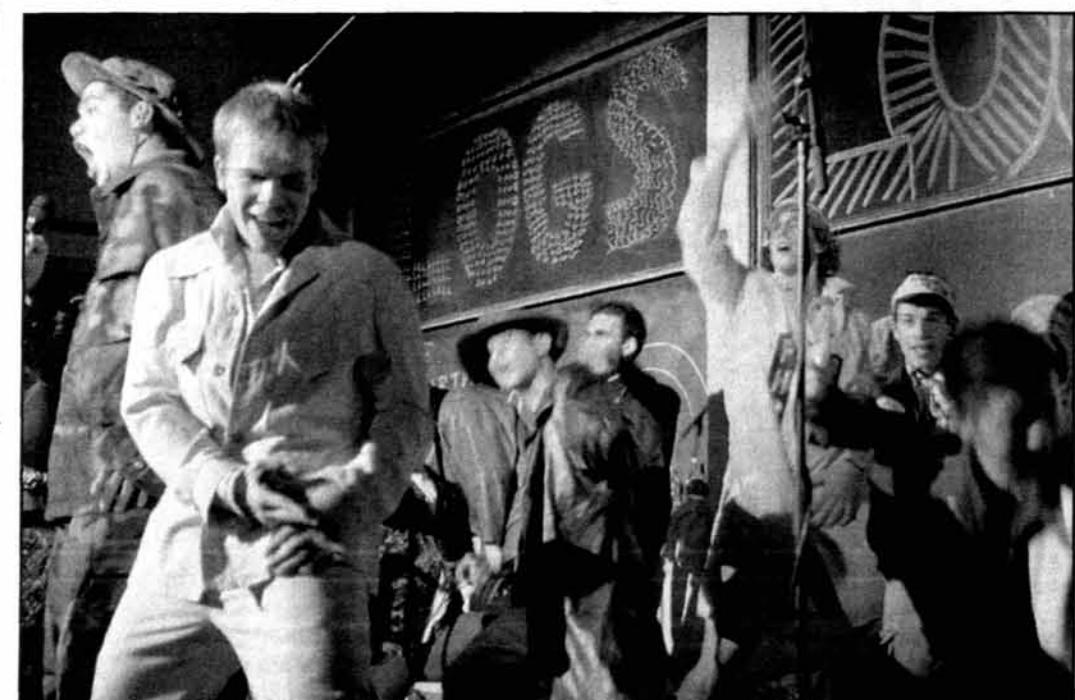
Magalie Souriau's gorgeous "Bastien" was the song of the night. Written for Souriau's twelve-year-old nephew, this tune goes beyond the spirit and warmth of youth, beginning as simple and naive as kite flying and aging into something tragic and beautiful. Daniel M. Halperin '04 charmed everyone with a colorful wah-wah trombone solo.

"Bastien" glided into "Sue's Changes," by Charles Mingus. Written for his wife, Sue Mingus, it's obvious at once that this song conveys her many moods: quiet, serene, sexy, vibrant, dancing, loud, busy, bossy, angry, violent, and calm. Rakowski and Mekelburg went at it, in a pugilistic conversation between alto and tenor saxophone that provided comic relief.

They ended with Mingus' "Unslinging Bird Funk O'Rama," for which the name says it all. This tribute to Charlie Parker began with Lada on electric bass. Halperin's complex and funky trombone solo was followed by a string of more wonderful solos: Jay K. Cameron '05 on piano, Andrew C. Thomas '04 on trombone, Fabian S. Jones '05 on tenor sax, Mekelburg, Rakowski, and, finally, Lovano. Joe and the saxes slung their guns. Nate Fitzgerald ripped at his drums. The hilarious on-stage craziness, like a barroom gunfight in some old cowboy movie, ended with an explosively awkward but satisfying chord. The applause was long, loud, and honest.

Every once and a while something great comes to MIT. We were lucky to spend the evening with Joe Lovano, and even more lucky the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble will be around for a while.

Logarhythms



Outgoing musical director Karl A. Erdmann '02 does his thing during the Logarhythms "Making the Logs" concert in 10-250 Saturday night.

The next issue of *The Tech* will be published on the day of Commencement.



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Vacations, Research On Tap for Summer

Summer, from Page 1

full year abroad, but I still wanted to go [to Cambridge] ... so I thought that this was a good compromise."

Ta said that she had never been out of the country before, and she wanted to use this summer as a chance to explore different cultures.

Amy L. Meadows '03 will go to Peru for a month to volunteer at a health clinic. Meadows will volunteer with 20 other people from different countries around the world and will live in a house with them outside of Lima.

Some spend summer traveling

In addition to working abroad, other MIT students will be using their summers to vacation abroad.

Daniel A. Loreto '04 will spend most of his summer in Montreal and Venezuela.

"I like traveling," Loreto said. "I'm going to Montreal to improve my French ... and to visit a friend."

Before leaving Montreal, Loreto wants to go to Niagara Falls for a weekend.

Loreto, who is originally from Venezuela, will return there to visit aunts and cousins.

Likewise, Shane E. Cruz G, who will be graduating this summer, is "going to be traveling all over the country."

Cruz wants to use this summer to "just relax."

Another graduate, Rose G. Radin '02 will go to Europe for a month with her sorority sister, Madeline M. Close '02.

Students work less academic jobs

After spending school years and summers working in labs, many students are anticipating a summer without research. Many students are

thus turning towards volunteerism as a chance to have a fun summer.

Emig, who is anticipating his experience aboard, said that through the MIT-AITI, "I can volunteer and do a good thing."

In addition to Emig and Meadows, Amelia E. Virostko '03 received a Public Service Center Fellowship to teach middle school students.

Virostko will design a biochemistry class and a class on the poetry of music lyrics as well as arrange field trips and mentor for her group of 20 to 25 students.

"I wanted a nonresearch job for the summer," Virostko said. "After working with 'Let's Get Ready,' I thought that it would be fun to work with kids."

Kaitlin E. Lewis '05 will be working at a summer camp as a camp counselor for eight weeks. Last summer, Lewis waited tables and said that she became bored with that job. "I really wanted to do something outdoors with kids," Lewis said.

"I'm going to get lots of sleep, bum around, and not think about school work," Lewis said.

Others explore careers

Many MIT students will use their summer as a chance to explore possible career paths.

Before going to Europe, Radin will work at the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City in Boston for eight weeks.

Radin, who worked at ICIC during IAP, will continue her work there during the summer "because it's giving me some insight into a future career path that I want to pursue, economic development."

Likewise, a summer in Africa caught Emig's attention because he is interested in going to the Peace Corps after MIT.

"I thought that this would be a good time to see what Africa is like," Emig said.

Biology undergraduate Michelle C. Page '04 is anticipating a summer at the University of California - Los Angeles. Page was accepted into UCLA's undergraduate neuro-engineering summer research program through which she will research Parkinson's Disease.

"The research is meaningful to me because my dad has Parkinson's disease," Page said.

Page is looking forward to spending time with her brother, who is a graduate student at UCLA, and her two-year-old nephew.

Plans for Discussion Still Being Finalized

Commencement, from Page 1

called "some unpleasantness" during the planning of the events.

SDC had initially hoped to host the movie, talk, and concert on Steinbrenner field, and the use of the field was approved by MIT Athletic Facilities. However, Stephen D. Immerman, director of enterprise services and an integral coordinator of commencement along with other administrators, wanted to stop the event for logistical reasons.

"My only objection was that it required a massive allocation of staff," Immerman said. "The proposal was for an outdoor concert, but our police forces were already staffed for the next day."

Steinberger and SDC member Brice C. Smith G attempted to compromise by offering to hire an outside security company for the event. However, outside security did not satisfy the concerns of the administrators.

"The problem is that there had to have been some commitment of MIT staff," Immerman said. "We rarely want people not familiar with our system. To be honest, they don't always have the same care and concerns that your own people do. We couldn't leave it to chance."

Other administrators came to the defense of the idea of the event, including Special Assistant to the President and Chancellor Kirk D. Kolenbrander, who had previously worked to plan the forum with Wolfensohn. Steinberger said that she was "very pleased" to see administrators do so.

Both sides acknowledged the lack of political influence in the decision. "It would have been a major commitment we would not have been able to do. It would have applied to anybody, not just them," Immerman said.

Steinberger agreed. "This was more of a logistics concern than a political concern ... We convinced them that it wasn't going to be too much work for them. Our decision to have this a day before commencement was a political decision."

After a round of discussion, the parties agreed to hold the event in 54-100, which seats approximately 300 people.

Because the event is free and in a small venue, MIT Police will not have to be present to protect collected money, operate metal detectors, or disperse loitering crowds.

Steinberger was pleased with the result. "At first, they didn't want to have the event at all, so we managed to work from that," she said.

"MIT has the reputation of being an open campus and we were pleased to see it was adhered to," she said.

Other students found the compromise to be unfair to the SDC. "[Room] 54-100 is really small," said Priya Agrawal '04. "That's almost rubbing it out of existence as a large event."

"It's not too bad," said Phong D. Ngo '02, member of the *a capella* group The Toons, which has performed in 54-100 frequently. "The acoustics aren't the greatest and it's not designed to be a concert hall, but I think it can be pulled off."

Students selected by lottery

The committee will officially select by lottery the 20 students who will be able to debate with Wolfensohn before commencement.

"We hope to have an impartial judiciary, possibly someone from *The Tech*, to oversee the process so there is no criticism," Steinberger said.

The lottery is open to graduate and undergraduate students only. Wolfensohn's representatives asked that he debate with those who had the "potential of graduating."

"We've had to turn away a few people because of that," Steinberger said.

Approximately 30 people representing student groups have request-

ed to be part of the panel discussion. Students can write to nowb@mit.edu until Thursday to request inclusion in the lottery.

Details of panel to be finalized

Representatives of SDC will also meet with Kolenbrander this week to determine who will moderate the Wolfensohn discussion and what press from *The Tech* will be allowed.

"I think there can be a reporter allowed, we don't know about a photographer," Steinberger said. "Important people are just afraid to say stupid things on camera. They told us they didn't want cameras 'to make the students feel more comfortable.' I don't understand that at all."

Organizers agreed that Wolfensohn would be accompanied on campus at all times by a person ranking no lower than Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75. It was presumed that because of this, Clay would then moderate the forum. SDC hopes that there will be a student moderator. "We are hoping that there can be a shared moderator role or Clay can stay in the room during the discussion."

The room and exact time for the forum is still undecided, though both MIT and SDC did decide that the event will not prohibit people from attending commencement.

Forum to discuss World Bank

The Technology and Culture Forum will also sponsor a panel discussion on May 28. The panel will consist of William Fisher of Clark University, Devesh Kapur of Harvard University, and Njoki Njehu, a public policy specialist, three critics of the World Bank. Assistant Professor of Urban Studies and Planning Balakrishnan Rajagopal will moderate the discussion.

"I'm delighted that TCF is hosting the event," Kolenbrander said. "I hope they do well, as I know it's hard to publicize an event after finals."

The panel was organized by Episcopal chaplain and TCF coordinator Reverend Amy McReath.

"I am pleased with the array of options that are available," Kolenbrander said. "It is important to have opportunities to hear from different perspectives."

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Closes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 3

Waitlists for closed Sloan classes are part of the Course Bidding System, beginning in Round II.

Successful bids appear on your Registration Form on September 3 and will be posted on the bidding website as of August 1 -- write down your password to check results!

**The Argentina Crisis :
More Than Meets The Eye**

PANEL DISCUSSION

Wednesday 15th May, 2002 (7-9 pm)
MIT Room 54-100
(tallest building on campus, 1st floor lecture hall)



Argentina is in the midst of a severe socio-economic crisis. Burdened with a 150 billion dollar foreign debt, which saps 30% of the federal budget in interest payments alone, the unemployment rate has soared over 20% and the economy's growth rate has plummeted from 8% to less than 1% in the last five years. Austerity measures — a prerequisite for IMF and World Bank foreign debt repayment loans — have been felt heavily by the population, which has seen its purchasing power halved since 1997. 45% of the population of this once prosperous country now lives below the poverty line (earnings less than \$2/day), and recent monetary devaluations have decimated private savings accounts. In this atmosphere, popular unrest has erupted with unprecedented force, primarily in the form of peaceful demonstrations demanding sweeping changes within the country's discredited political leadership. Two presidents have been ousted by popular demand since December 2001, and public demonstrations continue to pressure for dismissal of the entire Supreme Court, and a call for national elections for a new president and Legislative Assembly.

How is Argentina coping with this crisis? Why is the country in such dire economic straits, despite having followed the IMF and World Bank prescriptions for structural adjustment to the tee, throughout the 1990s? What is the historical background, socially and politically, behind the country's revolt against its current political leadership? What are the alternatives for the future?

Please join us for a panel discussion on these issues, featuring several Latin American academics currently residing in the Boston area.

PANELISTS

Rita Arditti (Graduate Faculty, The Union Institute & University)

Co-founder of New Words, a women's bookstore, and of the Women's Community Cancer Project. She is currently working with faculty and students at the University of Massachusetts Boston to create a Human Rights Center and academic program. Rita was born and grew up in Argentina, and has written a book documenting the search of Argentina's Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo for children who "disappeared" during the military regime of 1976-83 (*Searching for Life: The Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo and the Disappeared Children of Argentina*, 1999).

Claudia Kaiser-Lenoir (Professor of Latin American Literature and Latin American Studies, Tufts University)

A native Argentinean, currently teaching Latin American literature at Tufts University. She has recently returned from a visit to Argentina and will discuss the political and socio-economic setting of the current crisis.

Martin Hunter (Postdoctoral Research Associate, Chemistry Dept., MIT)

Born and raised in Argentina, currently conducting research on biomedical optics at MIT. Martin will summarize material from Indymedia Argentina discussing the recent social unrest and the growth of grass-roots political organizations.

This event is sponsored by the following MIT student organizations: Club Argentino, Social Justice Cooperative and MIT Greens.

New Center Bolsters MIT Brain Research

Donation, from Page 1

used for research, and the remainder will go toward the new building in the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Center.

Tonegawa said that the primary function of the center would not change with the new donation. "We already have our own vision of what kind of research should be done here," he said. However, one of the new faculty will specialize in researching the mechanisms which cause brain diseases, such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases.

"This we don't have right now," Tonegawa said, but the Picowers were particularly interested in this area.

Picowers announce donation

The donation was announced Thursday at a ceremony on campus.

"Meeting with [President Charles M.] Vest, Tonegawa, [Dean of Science Robert J.] Silbey and their colleagues, we learned of MIT's existing commitment to brain research," said Barbara Picower, executive director and trustee of the Picower Foundation,

in a statement. "We agreed with MIT that neuroscience and the study of the brain and mind will be one of the greatest frontiers of science in the decades ahead.

"We believe this research will have a tremendous impact not only on human health but on virtually everything we do. After much investigation, we chose to support MIT in its efforts to build a world-class, cutting-edge research institute devoted to the brain," Picower said. She cited MIT's "unique breadth of expertise" and "impressive track record of research and discoveries" as reasons for selecting the Institute for the donation.

Interest in brain research growing

The donation represents the second major gift MIT has received for brain research since early 2000, when McGovern made his landmark donation establishing the McGovern Institute for Brain Research. Tonegawa said that MIT hopes to be the world leader in brain research, a rapidly expanding field.

"If you look at how human beings are, we have physical ability but also mental ability," Tonegawa said. "The latter is much more evolved than the former."

"Some people say this is the most exciting area in life science or biology," he said. "To understand the brain is to understand what it really means to be human."

Tonegawa said that some consider brain research "the last unexplored area" in life science, and that the "time is right for us to be able to make major progress in this area."

"Understanding the brain and the mind is one of the most important ... scientific projects that we believe we can accomplish at the present time," Silbey said. "With the advances in neurobiology, systems neuroscience, and cognitive science, we are at the brink of wonderful new discoveries."

Center expands MIT research

Negotiations between the foundation and MIT took place beginning more than a year ago, Tonegawa said, but the donation became finalized in recent months.

The Picower Center will join three other groups on campus focusing on brain research: the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences; the new McGovern Institute; and the Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Functional and Structural Biomedical Imaging.

The Picower Center has been chartered with the goal of understanding how the brain learns, remembers, and thinks. The donation will be used to give a permanent home to the Center for Learning and Memory, which was established in 1994.

The Picower Foundation, established in 1989, has also donated \$200,000 annually to MIT since 2000, to support doctoral fellowships for underrepresented minorities. The non-profit foundation donates to a broad range of medical, arts, and educational programs.

Solution to Crossword

from page 10

SEAM	ELECT	AWAY
ACNE	LODER	DIRE
FUDDY	DUDDY	OLIN
EASIER	AEON	LAS
ASIS	RUTTY	
ATHLETES	TWANGS	
GOA	SCRAP	TRILL
HAND	HIDER	ALAI
ASKED	FIRE	LCD
STYMPIE	EMPLOYEE	
PINTS	SLAT	
ADA	ECCE	ANODES
RIND	HOITY	TOITY
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Charity Receives Almost \$2000

Big Screw, from Page 1

working on my PhD thesis about ten years ago in the middle of a particularly cold December," Leeb said. "I was here working on my project until midnight every night and it was horrible."

Leeb made a promise that if his thesis project worked, he would send a check to charity when he finished. "I went home really late on the night when my project finally started working and saw a commercial for Pine Street Inn. It seemed like a sign, and I've been donating to them ever since," Leeb said.

Pine Street Inn has headquarters in downtown Boston, but it has several shelter, housing, outreach, thrift shop, and job training locations throughout the city.

Last day donations decide contest

The total amount of money raised in the competition more than doubled in the last day of voting. Leeb took the lead after trailing behind Vest, who was nominated for his role in choosing this year's controversial commencement speaker, and Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75, who was nominated for his role in changes to graduate student housing this year.

"I'm revealing no secrets on winning the competition. That's top secret," Leeb said.

The drastic change in rankings and increased number of votes at the last minute is not unusual in the Big Screw competition.

"Just about every year, the bulk of the donations come on the last day of the competition," said Laura C. Cerritelli '03, publicity coordinator for the event. "The sudden change in rankings on the last day has certainly happened for a lot of candidates in the last couple of years."

The organizers of this year's competition say that they don't actually know how many people donated to any particular candidate, or the average amount of each donation. "There are always a few students who really want one candidate to win and will donate significantly to that candidate, and we always see faculty and staff come by and help out their favorite candidates," Cerritelli said.

Leeb honored by winning

Unlike the name would suggest to those unfamiliar with the competition, this annual event is an honor for those who win it.

"Winning this competition should be an honor since it signifies that students think your class deserves some form of recognition," said Cerritelli, who is in Leeb's 6.115 class. "He's a really entertaining professor, and he really seems to care about us learning the material and doing cool things with it."

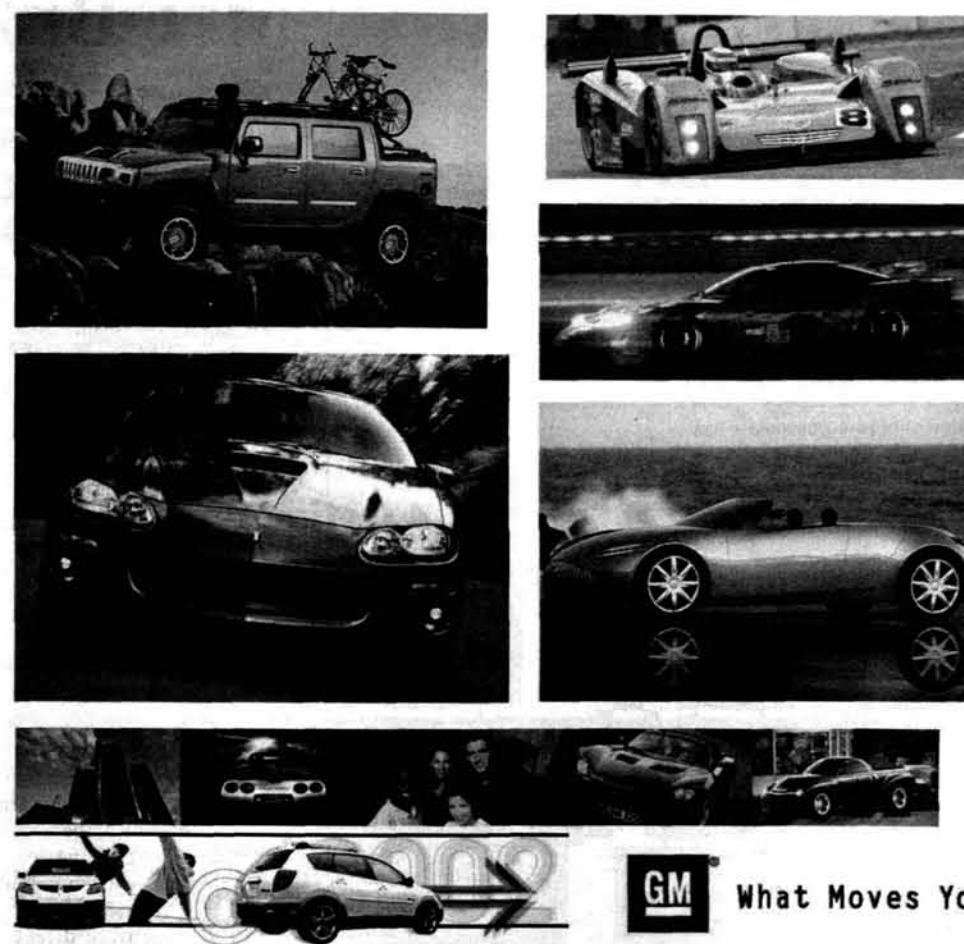
At this point, Leeb is pleased with winning the competition and is unsure about his plans for entering the competition in future years.

"Whether or not I enter the competition again will be up to my students," Leeb said. "I'm delighted to be the winner, and I think APO is really cool."

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Dalai, Sokka Win Compton Prizes

Sudeb C. Dalai '02 and Shunmugavelu D. Sokka G each received the Karl Taylor Compton Prize at yesterday's Institute Awards Convocation. The Compton Prize is awarded "in recognition of outstanding contributions in promoting high standards of achievement and good citizenship within the MIT community."

News Briefs

Dalai said the award was "pretty ironic, because many of the people who nominated me inspired me to excel. I feel like I'm accepting it on behalf of a lot of people I've worked with."

"It was a complete surprise" to receive the award, Sokka said, adding that his housemaster, Professor Roger G. Mark '60, tricked him into attending the ceremony with a "clever ruse" that "they were going to make an announcement about Sidney-Pacific."

Sokka, the former chairman of the Graduate Student Council's Committee on Housing



ANONYMOUS

Hackers spelled out "IHTFP" by removing seat backs in 10-250 yesterday. However, MIT officials considered the action vandalism which caused classes and the Awards Convocation to be relocated.

and Community Affairs, said he was "honored to be recognized by my peers ... just to know that other people that I worked with cared enough to nominate me."

The William L. Stewart Jr. Award for "students who have made outstanding contributions to co-curricular activities and events" was awarded to GSC Treasurer and former Association of Student Activities President Alvar Saenz Otero G, former UA President Jaime E. Devereaux '02, Jovonne J. Bickerstaff '02, Mendel Chuang '02, Michael R.

Folkert G, and Annie K. Wang '02. Sokka received the Stewart award last year.

— Keith J. Winstein

date," he said. "There's a lot of cleaning up we need to do."

— Keith J. Winstein

UA Council Amends Election Code

The Undergraduate Association Council voted May 6 to amend the UA's Election Code, expanding the powers of the eight-member Election Commission to include "preserving the integrity of the election," codifying requirements on write-in candidates, and providing a procedure to replace the chairman of the three-member Campaign Rules Board, a subset of the Commission.

The revision follows three consecutive UA presidential elections in which the Commission disqualified a candidate. In the most recent election, Rhett Creighton '02 ran for UA president as a write-in candidate, offering \$10 to students who voted for him. An Election Commission decision to disqualify Creighton for "offering bribes" was eventually sustained by the UA's Judicial Review Board, but not before the chairman of the rules board, Daniel D. Liston '04, resigned under pressure over what the Commission called "inappropriate" e-mails to Creighton.

The Election Code remains inconsistent with the UA's constitution, which specifies only a five-member Election Commission in its February 2002 revision. UA Council Speaker Benjamin J. Zeskind '03 said the UA would likely fix the inconsistency. "One of our goals is to bring the constitution up to

Institute Adds, Removes Defendants in Lawsuits

Since the beginning of April, MIT has initiated legal action against 26 American corporations by adding them as defendants in three of its existing federal patent-infringement lawsuits. MIT and its co-plaintiffs also dismissed or settled complaints against three corporations.

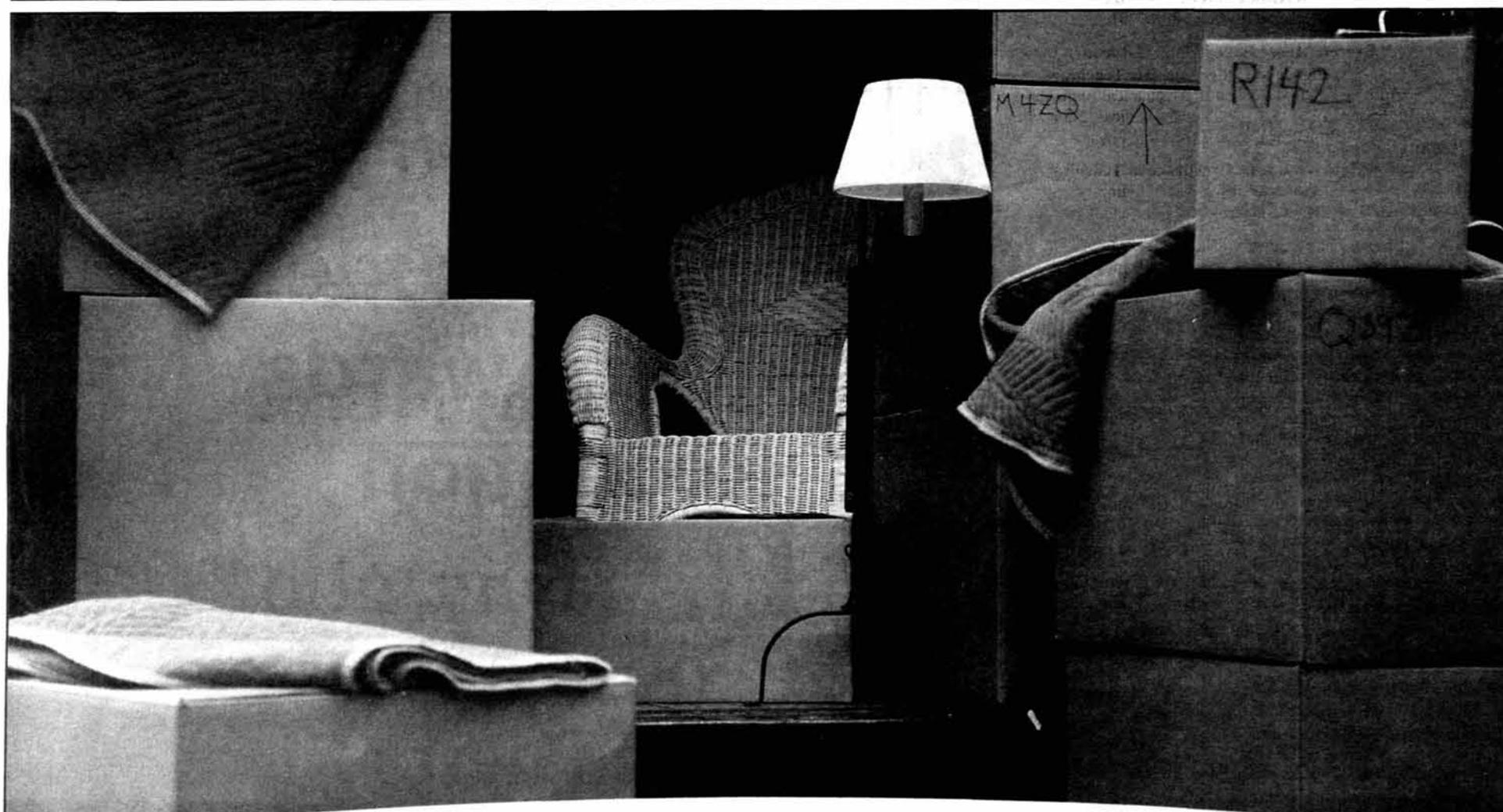
New defendants of MIT lawsuits include Best Buy Co., Buy.com Inc., Compaq Computer Corp., Kmart Corp., Samsung Electronics, and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in MIT's two federal lawsuits against 115 companies accused of having infringed MIT's U.S. Patent No. 4,500,919, "color reproduction system." The patent, which expired on May 4, 2002, had been exclusively licensed to MIT's co-plaintiff, Electronics for Imaging Inc.

MIT also added Comsat Corp. as a defendant in its patent infringement lawsuit against Lockheed Martin Global Telecommunications Inc., alleging willful infringement of MIT's U.S. Patent No. RE 36,478. Lockheed had countered that MIT sued it by mistake.

— Keith J. Winstein



President Charles M. Vest and Karl Taylor Compton Prize winner Sudeb C. Dalai '02.



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2002 MIT Awards Convocation Recipients

William F. Stewart Jr. Awards

Jovonne J. Bickerstaff '02, Mendel Chuang '02,
Jaime E. Devereaux '02, Michael R. Folkert G, Alvar Saenz Otero G,
Annie K. Wang '02

Harold J. Pettegrove Award

Todd S. Stefanik G

Pewter Bowl Award

Caroline M. Purcell '02

Admiral Edward L. Cochrane Award

Yuval Mazor '02

Betsy Schumacker Award

Princess Imoukhuede '02

Howard W. Johnson Award

Sean J. Montgomery G

Malcolm G. Kispert Award

Daniel R. Feldman '02 and Michele C. Verticchio '02

D. Reid Weodon, Jr. '41 Alumni/ae Relations Award

Sigma Chi

Frederick Gardiner Fassett, Jr. Awards

Rory P. Pheiffer '02 and Yolanda Fan '02

Edward L. Horton Fellowship Award

MIT Muslim Students' Association

Irwin Sizer Award for the Most Significant

Improvement in MIT Education

Professor David Lister, Physics

Former Vice President and Dean for Research

Frank E. Perkins Award

Professor Rediger Dornbusch, Sloan School of Management

Graduate Student Council Teaching Award

Professor Keith Hampton, School of Architecture and Planning;
Professor Kent F. Hansen and Manish Bhardwaj, School of Engineering;
Daniel B. Landau, School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences;
Professor Georgia Perakis, Sloan School of Management

Goodwin Medal

Elizabeth A. Kensinger, Brain and Cognitive Sciences

Kristin E. Finnegan Prize

Loren A. King, Ph.D. '01

Everett Moore Baker Memorial Award for

Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Professor John G. Brisson II, Mechanical Engineering;
Professor Ernest G. Cravalho, Mechanical Engineering;
Professor Barton Zwiebach, Physics

Bose Award for Excellence in Teaching

Professor Jesus A. del Alamo,
Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Arthur C. Smith Award

Professor Linn W. Hobbs, Materials Science & Engineering

John S.W. Kellett '47 Award

Nils O. Fonstad G

Albert G. Hill Prize

Leonard J. Grant '02 and Kateri A. Garcia '03

Ronald E. McNair Scholarship Award

Melissa A. Edoh '02, Nathan A. Fitzgerald '02, Ebraheem I. Fontaine '02, Irfan S. Pirmohamed '02, Jeannette D. Stephenson '02, and Huanne T. Thomas '02

Association of MIT Alumae (AMITA) Senior Academic Award

Alexandra G. Ianculescu '02;

Honorable Mention: Tiffany S. Santos '02 and Emily M. Craparo '02

Patrick J. McGovern '59 Entrepreneurship Award

MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition

Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts

Kevin Q. Choi '02

Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Awards

Nathan A. Fitzgerald '02 and Christopher Rakowski '02

Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts

Jacquelyn A. Martino G, Augustine M. Urbas G,

and Cecilia E. Ramos '05

Honorable Mention: Nicole A. Vlado '02

Priscilla King Gray Award for Public Service

Selam Daniel '02

James N. Murphy Award

Teresa O'Conner, Residential Life and Student Life Programs

Gordon Y Billard Award

Charlene M. Placido, Assistant Dean for Research;
Albert J. Guarino, Dormitory Housekeeper, Next House;
Steven M. Dimond, Manager, Copy Technology Centers

Laya Wiesner Community Award

Efrat Shavit '02

Laya W. Wiesner Award

Radha K. Iyengar '02

Karl Taylor Compton Prizes

Sudeb C. Dalai '02 and Shunmugavelu D. Sokka G

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Earth Share



Elizabeth S. Kim G and Ashish Mishra G observe the changing geography of the Middle East. The exhibit in Lobby 10 is part of Palestine Awareness Week, sponsored by the MIT Arab Students Organization, the MIT Muslim Students Association, MIT Paksmi, and the MIT Bangladeshi Students Association.

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LINKED

The New Science of Networks

with

Albert-László Barabási

Professor of Physics at the University of Notre Dame

Tuesday, May 14th, 5:30 pm

MIT 54-100, 21 Ames St., Cambridge



In *Linked*, László Barabási—a scientist whose own work has transformed the study of "links and nodes"—takes us inside the unfolding network revolution. He traces the history of connected systems, beginning with Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler's first forays into graph theory in the late 1700s and culminating in biologists' development of cancer drugs based on a new understanding of cellular networks.

Albert-László Barabási is the Emil T. Hofman Professor of Physics at the University of Notre Dame.

Linked: The New Science of Networks is published by Perseus Publishing, 2002.

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SPORTS

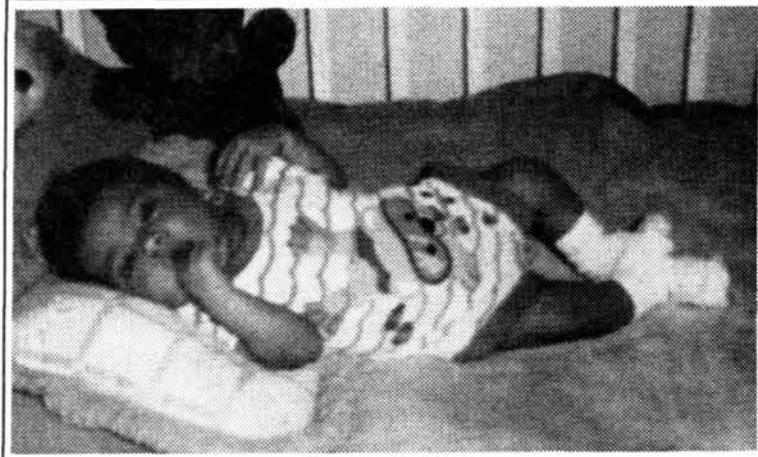
UPCOMING HOME EVENT



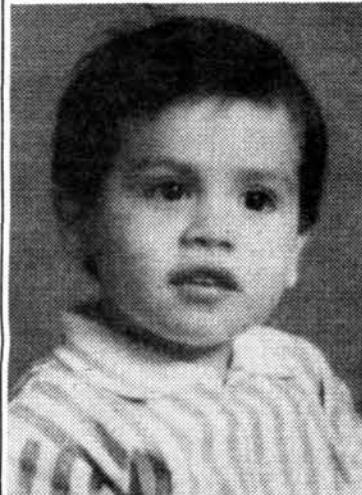
Sunday, June 2



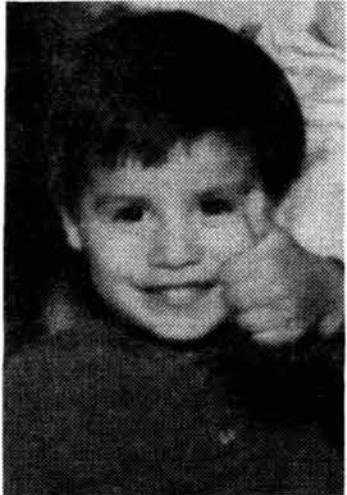
Women's Crew, Commencement Alumnae Row



2 weeks old, 1989



1 year old, 1991



2 years old, 1992

Stevie Ace Flores.

Killed by a drunk driver on March 23, 1993,
on Pacific Coast Highway in Wilmington, Calif.

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U.S. Department of Transportation

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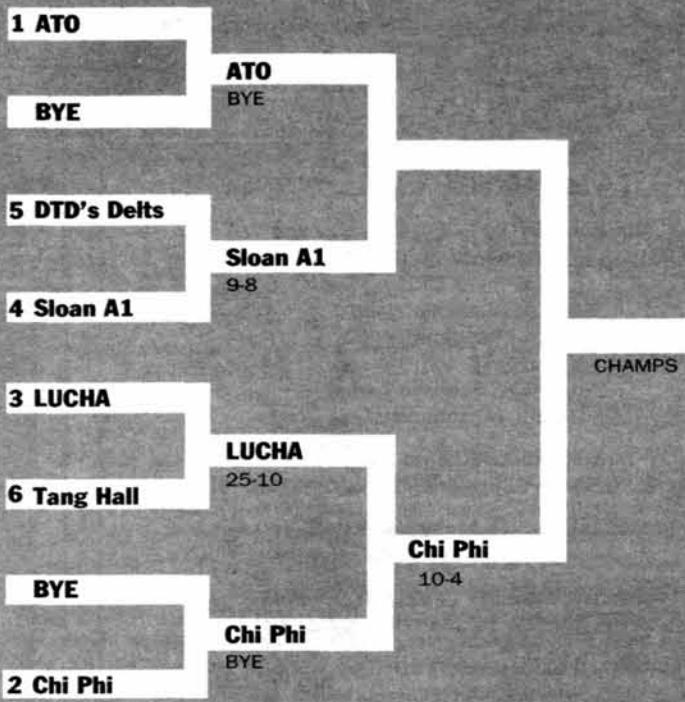
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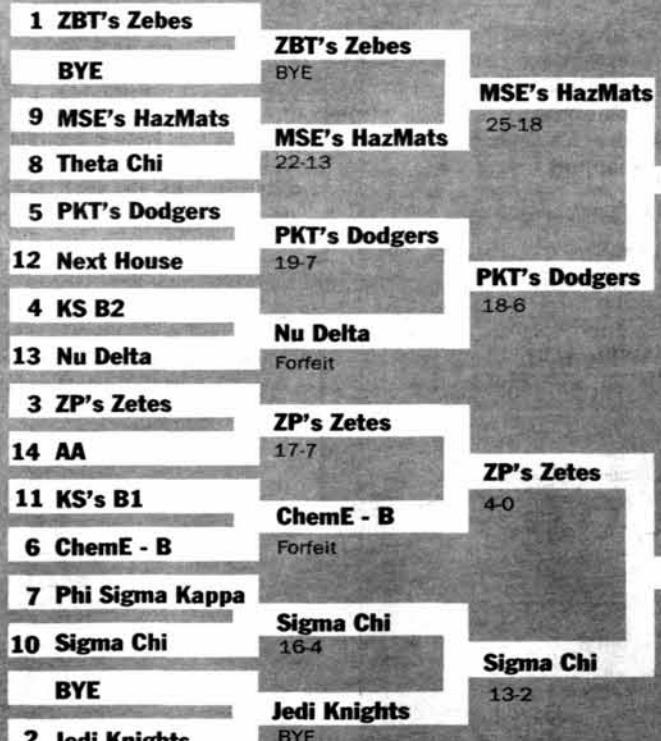
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